

## Public Comments from Marc Weisskopf

I have read the October 2018 CASAC memo written by A Cox regarding the ISA for PM 2.5 and I write to express my grave concern that that CASAC memo does not treat the effort that went into preparing the ISA for PM 2.5 and the conclusion of that document in a manner that is consistent with the state of the science as I know it. I strongly disagree with the conclusion that the methods used to assess the strength of evidence and likelihood of causality of associations were inadequate, and based on what I know of the literature on many of the topics covered by the ISA, I feel the conclusions were arrived at appropriately. Many of the inconsistencies raised in the memo, in fact, ignore the differences in outcome or other aspects of the study that are wholly reasonable explanations for the differences in results (of what are fundamentally different analyses). The memo ignores the overall consistency of many of the findings when appropriate consideration for study strengths (and other studies weaknesses) related to design and other approaches are appropriately considered.

I am sympathetic to the acknowledgement in the memo of the lack of appropriate expertise needed to conduct this review and indeed somewhat troubled by that. I wholeheartedly agree with the comments of some of the CASAC members that requested that the PM panel of experts from prior ISAs be reconvened. To the extent that that is not possible, I am fully willing to offer my own expertise in air pollution epidemiology to this effort.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or for further information, and as I say, I am willing to help in any capacity with the efforts of the CASAC.

Sincerely,

**Marc Weisskopf, PhD, ScD**

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