

INTRODUCTION: NEW INSIGHTS INTO LONG-STANDING ISSUES

Paul R. Sanberg* and Howard J. Federoff†

*USF Research & Innovation, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, USA

†School of Medicine, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA

In “Asbestos Exposures Associated With Motorcycle Riding and Hiking on Asbestos-Containing Soils: Risk of Asbestos-Related Cancer,” Wilson et al. revisit the scientific basis for the closure of the Clear Creek Management Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California to recreational motorcyclists and other enthusiasts due to risks associated with asbestos exposure from asbestos-containing soils. Their research concludes that there is no significant risk associated with occasional motorcycling and other recreational activities in the Clear Creek area under appropriate conditions. In fact, their calculated risk of death from asbestos-related cancer due to motorcycling on these soils is less than one in a million. Moreover, their study suggests that the original data used in the decision-making process to close the area may not have represented typical weather conditions or riding practices. Overall, this study provides a valuable opportunity to reassess the original studies and adds valuable new data to an important environmental health issue.