



**INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER  
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER**

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**JUL 13 2004**

Ref.: GEE/92/4

2 July 2004

Dear Dr Jameson,

This is to inform you that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is coordinating a case-control study of lung cancer nested in the IARC Multicentric Cohort Study of European Asphalt Workers. I am the principal investigator of both studies. Mortality results of the cohort study have recently been reported in the 43<sup>rd</sup> volume of the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* (Burstyn *et al.*, 2003, pp 3-17; Boffetta *et al.*, 2003, pp 18-27; Boffetta *et al.*, 2003, pp 28-39) and an increased risk of lung cancer among asphalt workers was identified. The case-control study aims at disentangling the contribution, if any, to the increased risk of lung cancer of various agents: asphalt (bitumen) fume, other agents occurring in the asphalt industry, other occupational exposures experienced by asphalt workers, and extra-occupational factors, mainly tobacco smoking.

The case-control study started on 1 June 2004 and is expected to take three years to reach completion. The study protocol is available on the IARC ftp site (<ftp://ftp2.iarc.fr/pub/ece/asphalt/>). This study is partly funded by relevant European and American industrial associations: in fact, I have been asked to inform you about this study by Eurobitume and the Asphalt Institute.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

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