

# DISTRIBUTE TO ALL LISTS

## FLASH UPDATE

<http://agentorangezone.blogspot.com/>

**Monday, April 1, 2013**

**[URGENT CALL TO ACTION!](#)**

### **They Want Us to Kill the Petition**

Since Birth Defect Research for Children filed the petition for the Center to diagnose and treat the children of Vietnam veterans, we have seen our funding disappear. Our Combined Federal Campaign (military and government workplace) funding is at an all time low. Grants we counted on have not come through. Right now our funding has been cut in half and we are only able to continue because our director has been willing to work for free since the beginning of this year. We are a small organization and never operate on a lot of funding, but we can't exist on "no" funding. This is why we are appealing to all 12,648 veterans and friends who have signed the Centers' petition to help us with your donation. You can donate through the Agent Orange bracelet program here on Causes or directly through our web site [www.birthdefects.org](http://www.birthdefects.org). If all of you donate only \$25, we will be able to continue another year. If you donate \$50, two years...and if you donate \$100, we will be there for you through the long haul.

Thanks,

Betty Mekdeci  
Executive Director  
Birth Defect Research for Children  
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407-895-0802

<https://www.givedirect.org/give/givefrm.asp?CID=510>

[NEWS from Birth Defect Research for Children](#)

### **Introducing BDRC's New Healthy Baby Resource Video**

Thanks to a generous grant from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, BDRC has been able to create several animated videos to explain our main projects and services. Our latest video is about our healthy baby resource.

## [Dioxin exposure causes transgenerational health effects](#)

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/newsletter/2012/11/science-dioxin/index.htm>

A new study, funded in part by NIEHS, found that dioxin affects not only the health of an exposed rat, but also unexposed descendants through a mechanism of epigenetic transgenerational inheritance.

The [study](#) was conducted in the laboratory of [Michael Skinner, Ph.D.](#), a professor in the Center for Reproductive Biology in the Department of Biological Sciences at Washington State University (WSU) who designed the [study](#). Co-authors included assistant research professor Mohan Manikkam, Ph.D., research technician Rebecca Tracey, and postdoctoral researcher Carlos Guerrero-Bosagna, Ph.D.

“Although not designed for risk assessment, these results have implications for the human populations that are exposed to dioxin and are experiencing declines in fertility and increases in adult onset disease, with a potential to transmit them to later generations,” the authors concluded.

Dangers of dioxin last for decades after initial exposure

Dioxin, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo[p]dioxin (TCDD), is a chemical compound that constitutes part of the Agent Orange herbicide used as a defoliant in the Vietnam War. According to research cited in the study, exposure is estimated to have caused 400,000 deaths and 500,000 birth defects. Dioxin has also been released from industrial accidents, leading to human exposures. Due to its extremely long half-life of up to 10 years in humans, dioxin may still affect pregnancies occurring even 20 years after exposure. In the Skinner group’s experiments, exposure to dioxin caused changes in the DNA methylation patterns of sperm that were transmitted across generations, in an imprinted-like manner, to affect the health of multiple generations of descendants. The grandchildren of exposed rats showed dioxin-induced effects ranging from polycystic ovarian disease to kidney disease. The work raises the serious concern that even if toxic chemicals, such as dioxin, were completely removed from the environment, they could continue to cause disease for multiple generations.

READ MORE: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/newsletter/2012/11/science-dioxin/index.htm>

## [Backlog of veterans claims recalls Vietnam-era benefit battles](#)

<http://tv.msnbc.com/2013/03/31/backlog-of-veterans-claims-recalls-vietnam-era-benefit-battles/>

The frustration of Vietnam veterans echoes today among new veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who deal with a current backlog that has left nearly [one million veterans waiting](#) for their benefit claims to be processed.

In a February 6, 1991 broadcast highlighted Sunday on *Melissa Harris-Perry*, NBC News reported on Vietnam veterans suffering from illnesses they contracted due to exposure to Agent Orange, the chemical used widely during that conflict. The devastating effects of Agent Orange to the men, women, and children of Vietnam were already known, but even in the 1980s, the men who were exposed to it during their tour of service had to fight to get treatment and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The V.A. basically told me to get lost,” Jim Donaghy, a Vietnam veteran, said in the clip. “The rage is incomprehensible. It goes beyond rage, it’s betrayal.”

March 29 marked 40 years since the last American troops left Vietnam, and March 20 was the tenth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Later on Sunday’s *MHP*, former U.S. representative Patrick Murphy, the first Iraq veteran to serve in Congress joined journalist Aaron Glantz of the Center for Investigative Reporting and Kayla Williams, a fellow with the Truman National Security Project Center for National Policy, to talk about the veterans benefits backlog and how to fix it. See the discussion below.

WATCH VIDEO: <http://tv.msnbc.com/2013/03/31/backlog-of-veterans-claims-recalls-vietnam-era-benefit-battles/>

Posted by [AgentOrangeZone](#) at 8:45 AM No comments:

# Saturday, March 30, 2013

## **REGISTER NOW: IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS**

<http://agentorangelegacy.com/2013/02/register-now-important-message-to-children-of-vietnam-veterans/>

Vietnam Veterans of America Agent Orange/Dioxin Committee is asking the children of Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; adult children (we recommend you register your children also) who are ill and/or have birth defects, learning disabilities and/or mental health issues; to register with Birth Defect Research for Children, Inc. National Birth Defect Registry.

Participation in the registry includes:

- [Completing an online questionnaire:](#)
- The questionnaire will ask about you (the child) or your disabilities; health and family history of both parents; exposures during pregnancy and occupational exposures.
- A special section will ask about the veteran's service in Vietnam. This section was designed in collaboration with the New Jersey State Agent Orange Commission.
- Collected data will be used for a study of the pattern of birth defects and disabilities that have been most frequently reported in the children of Vietnam veterans.
- All data are confidential. Your permission would be requested before any researcher would get in touch with you.

For more information contact Betty Mekdeci, 407-895-0802 or send email to [betty@birthdefects.org](mailto:betty@birthdefects.org).