

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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Remarks of Dr. G. Donald Whedon Misrepresented
By Opponents Of Community Water Fluoridation

Opponents of fluoridation have misrepresented remarks made by Dr. G. Donald Whedon, Director of the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

Dr. Whedon unequivocally endorses fluoridation of community water supplies. Following are excerpts from a letter written by Dr. Whedon in response to an inquiry concerning his statements about fluorides.

"Controlled fluoridation of community water supplies, according to the U. S. Public Health Service, in concentrations of one part per million, clearly can be recommended to communities as a medically safe procedure and I thoroughly endorse it."

"As I believe you are aware, the use of my name by individuals who oppose water fluoridation has not received my approval and is based on either an unintentional or willful misunderstanding of my remarks at a lecture in Ottawa in 1967. In that lecture I was speaking about the experimental study of fluoride in amounts from 10 to 30 times greater than in fluoridated water as proposed treatment for the disease condition, osteoporosis. The effectiveness of fluoride for bone disease at these high levels has not yet been conclusively demonstrated."

Dr. Whedon also referred to his statement concerning fluorides in osteoporosis in a textbook, Clinical Endocrinology II, published in 1968:

"....a cautious attitude (in the treatment of osteoporosis should) be taken toward use of this rare ion in amounts from 10 to 30 times greater than has been found safe and effective for prevention of dental caries via addition to drinking water (1 ppm F)."

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