
Introduction

Dear Reader,

This book was written out of devotion and desperation. I never wanted to involve the media nor burden you with the story of my husband Dave's harrowing experience as a test subject in a drug trial. You have been disillusioned enough by exposés of the lack of integrity in high places.

Shortly after Dave's death, once I'd scraped myself off the floor, and with help from family and friends, I started a campaign to improve the monitoring and medical care of Phase I participants. We began by directing our well-documented concerns to the executives of the many bureaucracies involved. The powers-that-be threw us some legally vetted reports containing measured apologetic phrases and reassurances that the protocols already in place were entirely adequate. Their reports further assured us that these rules of conduct would, *now*, be strictly followed. They then circled their wagons and severed communications. We've persisted on alternate fronts, but the reality is, the medical research establishment isn't motivated to change its ways, the status quo works nicely — for them. You are our final court of appeal.

There is a simple reason why the medical research industry can dismiss the issues that Dave's case has spotlighted: their governing body — our society — is oblivious to the actual workings of the drug development process. Secrecy has long been a tool used by elitist groups to protect their influence and power. Like so many of us, Dave and I coasted along, assuming that the medical profession still adhered to its age-old solemn

oath to "Do No Harm". Sadly, as Oscar Wilde has said, "When you 'assume', you make an 'ass' out of 'u' and 'me.'"

Lethal Dose will educate you about what happens in the evolution of a new drug after the testing on lab animals is completed. This book is an intimate account of Dave's recruitment and experiences throughout a Phase I cancer clinical trial. The focus of this narrative is not the drug, but Dave, the person.

Please read on ...

Regards,

Patricia Maddocks Bear Ring "U" 'n Mind Foundation
June 16, 2011 *Research with Respect*

Throughout Lethal Dose, pseudonyms have been substituted for the names of those medical people intrinsic to Dave's story. My lawyers have deemed this necessary to mitigate possible libel action. For the same reason, descriptive adjectives have been kept to a minimum. At this point, I consider it a mixed blessing that I have a good memory for conversations. Nonetheless, that personal attribute has been invaluable, especially during my hundreds of hours volunteering on a local Crisis Line and while assembling this book. If the phrasing of an exchange between characters jars, rest easy: the content is correct.