

Expert Report  
Laura S. Welch, MD, FACP, FACOEM  
October 2004

**Qualifications:** I am a physician with board certification in both Occupational and Environmental Medicine and Internal Medicine. I received my medical degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and have held faculty positions at the Schools of Medicine at Albert Einstein, Yale and George Washington Universities. Details of my education and training are set forth in my curriculum vitae, attached as exhibit 1.

I have extensive experience in diagnosis and treatment of asbestos-related diseases. I have been in occupational medicine practice for over 20 years, and a substantial part of my practice has always been devoted to examination of workers exposed to asbestos.

In addition, I have many years of experience in medical surveillance programs for asbestos. Since 1987 I have been the medical advisor to the Sheet Metal Occupational Health Institute Trust, a joint labor-management organization within the sheet metal industry established to provide medical examinations for sheet metal workers exposed to asbestos and other respiratory hazards. To date, SMOHIT has provided medical examinations to over 30,000 sheet metal workers, and is now the largest epidemiological database of asbestos-exposed workers in the country. I also developed similar medical screening programs for the Laborers National Health and Safety Fund and other construction trades, in conjunction with the Occupational Health Foundation. I currently serve as medical director for a Department of Energy-funded medical screening program to provide medical examinations for former construction workers at a number of former atomic weapons production facilities. In each of these programs I have designed programs to detect asbestos-related disease, and designed algorithms for the examining physicians to use in interpretation of the results. I have been active in efforts to improve validity and reliability of x-ray reading to detect asbestos related disease in the United States; this work included publication of a paper on variability between readers' classification of x-rays using the International Labor Organization Guide to Classification of Pneumoconiosis, based on an analysis of results from these screening programs.

I currently am medical director at The Center to Protect Workers Rights, a research institute devoted to improving health and safety in the construction industry. Because of my expertise in medical programs for asbestos-exposed workers, I participated in a working group with representatives from labor, industry, and insurance companies to develop medical criteria for Senate Bill 1125, a bill to establish a national trust fund for compensation of asbestos related disease in the United States.

Attached as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of my current curriculum vitae, which sets forth my education, training, professional affiliations, research activities and publications.

**Data considered:** I reviewed the medical criteria for compensation of asbestos-related diseases set forth in the draft Owens Corning Personal Injury Settlement Trust Distribution Procedures (TDP). I reviewed a report written by Dr. Gary K. Friedman on his review of x-ray and pulmonary function classification among Owens Corning Nonmalignant Claims Submissions 1994-1999, reviewed the settlement agreement with Owens Corning and Fibreboard dated 9/8/00. In reaching the opinions set forth in this report, I am relying upon my background, training, and experience; the literature cited below; and generally available medical knowledge about asbestos-related diseases.

**Compensation:** My fee schedule is attached as exhibit 2.

**Prior testimony:** A listing of all cases in which I have testified as an expert at trial or at deposition is attached as exhibit 3.

