

Terry Sullivan, PhD
Provincial Vice-President
Research and Cancer Control
Cancer Care Ontario
620 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2L7

05/01/04

Dear Dr. Sullivan,

Re. alPHa Resolution A03-3 Helicobacter Pylori and Gastric Cancer Prevention

On behalf of member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health, and Affiliate organizations of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), I am writing to introduce a Resolution endorsed this past June by our membership for the information of and advice from Cancer Care Ontario. I have included the original resolution for your convenience. Progress on this can be viewed on alPHaWeb on the following page: http://www.alphaweb.org/gastric_cancer.asp

Stomach cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide; and *H. pylori* has been identified as an associated risk factor. Given the poor prognosis once stomach cancer has been diagnosed, and given the prevalence of *H. pylori* (which can be easily detected through non-invasive tests and whose effective treatment is known), alPHa requested that the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and Ontario Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation to consider funding a project to evaluate the merits of a screening and treatment protocol.

We received a response from Dr Jean-François St-Denis of CIHR, indicating that in order to consider funding for such research, applications must first be prepared and sent to the CIHR for open grant competitions as Canadian health researchers are invited to compete for funding. It was therefore suggested that we approach the research community to raise awareness of the value of this proposal. While speaking with Dr. Verna Mai on this subject while discussing another matter, she suggested that we approach you for advice on how to further proceed.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to a reply at your earliest convenience, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Andrew Papadopoulos, BAsC, MBA
Executive Director

DRAFT 2003 alpha RESOLUTION NO. A03-3

TITLE: Heliobacter Pylori and Gastric Cancer Prevention

SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS stomach cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide; and

WHEREAS the outcome of treatment for stomach cancer is poor; and

WHEREAS H. pylori is associated with some stomach cancers; and

WHEREAS the International Agency for Research on Cancer has designated H. pylori as a Class 1 human carcinogen; and

WHEREAS H. pylori infects a substantial proportion of Canadians; and

WHEREAS H. pylori is commonly acquired in childhood, usually by ten years of age, and will persist life-long unless treated; and

WHEREAS H. pylori can be detected by non-invasive tests (i.e., serology and urea breath test); and

WHEREAS H. pylori can be effectively eradicated by medical treatment (i.e., triple therapy – two anti-microbial agents with a proton-pump inhibitor);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and Ontario Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation are urged to fund a demonstration project to evaluate the merits of a high-risk H. pylori screening and treatment;

AND FURTHER THAT the federal Minister of Health, President, CIHR and Ontario's Minister of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation are so advised.