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In reply please  
refer to: D2/Mrg/0001

Your reference:

Mr Michael Bender  
Mercury Policy Project/  
Zero Mercury Working Group  
1420 North St.  
Montpelier  
USA-VT 05602

22 October 2009

Dear Mr Bender,

**Meeting on the Future Use of Materials for Dental Restoration  
WHO/HQ, Geneva, 16 to 17 November 2009**

We have pleasure in inviting you to participate in the above-mentioned meeting to be held at WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland from 16 to 17 November 2009.

The WHO Global Oral Health Programme has received an increasing number of enquiries from WHO Member States requesting advice on the use of dental restoration materials in oral health care of patients, including the use of dental amalgam containing mercury. Such requests are being made by national health authorities or ministries of health.

However, awareness of the environmental implications of mercury has increased markedly over recent years, and mercury is a matter of concern to several countries and international organizations. Furthermore, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has launched an initiative on avoiding the contamination of the environment from mercury which has implications to the use of dental amalgam in countries.

In 1997, the WHO held a state-of-the-art consultation, and the outcome has so far formed the policy basis of the Organization. Meanwhile, important basic and clinical research has been undertaken during the past 10-15 years which indicates the relevance of alternative biomaterials in dental restoration. The advantages and disadvantages of these alternatives need to be analysed in order for WHO to update the knowledge base and give advice to countries in this matter. The intention of the meeting is to provide global guidelines and strategies for future use of biomaterials and the challenges are different for high-, middle-, and low-income countries.

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(ENCL: as mentioned)

Being an expert in this field, the WHO Global Oral Health Programme hereby extends an invitation for you to participate in this most important meeting. Given the high importance of this work to the future of dentistry and dental care of patients, I sincerely hope that you are able to participate in this meeting.

Please find attached the agenda, scope and purpose and list of participants. The working language of the meeting will be English.

A Declaration of Interests for WHO Experts Form is attached which you are requested to complete and return to this office by email to (elvinc@who.int). This invitation is provisional pending receipt of the completed Declaration. The signed original should be brought to the meeting.

Upon receipt of this letter, please verify with the nearest Swiss Embassy or consulate whether you are required to have a visa to enter Switzerland. If so, kindly let us know by sending an email or fax to Ms Catherine Elvin (elvinc@who.int / fax number: +4122 791 4866) and provide us with the following details: Your full name (as it appears on your passport). Date of birth. Passport Number. Date of issue of passport. Expiry date of passport. Town/country where passport was issued. Upon receipt of your communication, and provided that we receive it in a timely manner, WHO will prepare and send you by fax or email a visa support letter which you should present to the competent Swiss representation when applying for a visa.

Finally, we would like to request that participants attending any WHO meeting consult the most current guidance regarding A H1N1 Influenza for travellers, located on WHO's website at the following address: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>. We are also enclosing an advisory letter on the influenza epidemic.

I do hope that it will be possible for you to attend this meeting and look forward to learning about your commitment to the following email address: petersenpe@who.int

Yours sincerely,

*PE Petersen*

Dr Poul Erik Petersen  
Oral Health Programme, Health Promotion  
Department of Chronic Diseases  
and Health Promotion (CHP)