



**Division of Biomolecular Engineering**

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Dr Matthew Meselson  
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MAY 12 1995

Dear Matt,

You will be surprised to hear from me, after all these years.

I am writing about the effects of the use of the defoliant Agent Orange (AO) during the Vietnam war, since you are a world expert in this area. The current publicity 20 years after the fall of Saigon included a TV report on the births of many malformed children (on foetal abnormalities) in areas where AO was sprayed. It seems possible that AO (or a contaminating chemical) is a potent teratogen, and if you have information, documentation or references, I would much appreciate receiving this material.

My immediate need is a forthcoming presentation to the Australian and New Zealand Environmental Mutagenesis Society with the title "Does damage to DNA induce heritable epigenetic defects?". I wish to review cases where parents subjected to environmental insults produce defective offspring. There are several examples where mutation or chromosomal abnormality is an unlikely cause, but changes in the heritable DNA methylation pattern is a possibility.

I vividly remember your lectures on the disastrous environmental effects of the Vietnam war, at the Villa Serbelloni, and subsequently at Mill Hill. I hope you and your family are well.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Robin*

Robin Holliday

A u s t r a l i a n   S c i e n c e ,   A u s t r a l i a ' s   F u t u r e