

DRAFT 1/27/04

Editor
New England Journal of Medicine

Dear :

The medical data reported by Dr. Peter Leutscher in the letter that you published on January 14, 2004, is the property of Peace Corps and has been used without our permission. In addition, Dr. Leutscher performed these tests on Peace Corps Volunteers without having a research protocol approved by an Institutional Review Board. We assume that you would not have published the letter had you known this.

Dr. Leutscher's contract as a Medical Officer with Peace Corps, which was in effect during the reported February 2001-January 2002 serologic testing period, provided that all information gathered under the contract was required to be treated as privileged medical information and not made available to any party other than Peace Corps. The contract also provided that all data and reports produced under the contract are the property of the United States Government.

On October 30, 2002, in connection with a manuscript by Dr. Leutscher containing similar cysticercosis data, which the Journal of Travel Medicine had apparently accepted for publication, Peace Corps wrote to Dr. Leutscher and advised him of these contract restrictions. As a result, Dr. Leutscher then wrote to the Journal of Travel Medicine on November 22, 2002, advising them that they could not publish that manuscript. (The manuscript was subsequently published in the October 2003 edition of the Journal without the cysticercosis data and without Peace Corps permission.) Copies of the two letters are attached.

I look forward to your response and will be happy to discuss this matter with you in further detail, as you require. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Steve Weinberg, M.D.
Acting Director
Office of Medical Services