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Biomarkers of Genotoxicity Induced by DDT and Risk for Breast Cancer in Madison County, Alabama


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Abstract: Oakwood College, a private liberal arts institution, in Huntsville, Alabama in collaboration with University of Alabama in Huntsville and University of Birmingham in Huntsville is conducting a research project to study biochemical markers of genotoxicity induced by DDT in Madison County, Alabama. Residents of the town of Triana, predominantly black have been eating fish from a local river contaminated with DDT for nearly 50 years. The study conducted by Center for Disease Control in 1979, confirmed an average total serum levels of 159.4 parts per billion in Triana residents. Recently several epidemiological studies have associated DDT with breast cancer. The purpose of the study is to identify genotoxic biomarkers such as micronuclei induction, cell proliferation and to evaluate the effects of DDT on BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene products and their modulation by soy protein genistein and daidzein in rats and exposed humans. The main purpose of the grant however, is to establish the career goals of the PI as an independent breast cancer investigator.

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Limitations:	 APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
Description:	Annual rept. 15 Sep 1999-14 Sep 2000
Pages:	11
Report Date:	OCT 2000
Contract Number:	DAMD17-98-1-8138
Report Number:	A680093

 **Keywords relating to this report:**

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