From: SSMoench@aol.com
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2001 4:22 PM
To: Jameson.Bill
Subject: Breast cancer

sssDear Dr. Jameson:

I am a physician in Salt Lake City, Utah. My 28 yr. old daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer a year ago and ended up having a double mastectomy last September. Obviously our whole family has been devasted but also shocked because she has absolutely no family history of breast or any other cancer. She was eventually tested for the BCRA gene which was negative. In the course of looking up studies on the National Cancer Institute web site to try and help determine what treatment she needed I came across an overwhelming body of evidence that linked breast cancer in young women with birth control pill use. My daughter had used the pill for 10 yrs. It is the only explanation for her cancer.

I understand that you are receiving public comment about whether the National Toxicology Panel should place estrogen on the list of known carcinogens. In view of what has happened to our family I urge you recommend that estrogen be placed on that list.

It seems that the medical research community spends a great deal of effort, time and money pursuing treatments for cancer and far less on finding the causes. When we do find something that seems to be a cause we have an obligation to warn society even if it is socially or economically unwelcome news. I am sure that the pharmaceutical industry does not want to tarnish the profitability of birth control pills and estrogen replacement therapy. However, the evidence should compel physicians to start warning the public about the dangers of their use. I have watched with particular dismay a recent TV ad campaign encouraging young women to use the pill for such things as regulating their periods and curing acne. Physicians must stand up against the pharmaceutical industry when they endanger the public. This is your chance to do just that and I hope you will.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Moench
Salt Lake City, Utah