

Nor-propoxyphene has local anesthetic properties which have effects on electro-conduction in the heart muscles of laboratory animals that can be detected using extremely sensitive test methods. Many other drugs share these properties. Clinical observations of humans receiving propoxyphene in recommended doses—and in some cases, doses far in excess of the recommended dose—have shown no change in heart action.

There is no reason to believe that the nor-propoxyphene metabolite is a significant factor in the propoxyphene-related deaths that have been reported, nor does the evidence concerning it call into question the conclusion drawn by forensic toxicologists like Drs. Hudson and Finkle that the great majority of propoxyphene-related deaths are suicides.

Lilly is deeply concerned about the societal problem of suicide, especially when it involves any of the Company's products. There is no reason to believe, however, that the availability of propoxyphene has any relation to the incidence of suicides in general or drug-related suicides in particular. A comparison of distribution data for Darvon products with medical examiner reports from various cities shows that there is no relationship between the quantity of propoxyphene available and the number of propoxyphene-related deaths. The trend in propoxyphene-related deaths has paralleled that for suicides in general.

In these circumstances, further controls on the distribution or dispensing of propoxyphene products will not solve the overall problem of abuse, or the specific problem of suicide. Their only effect would be to restrict the availability of useful medications to patients who need them. If propoxyphene products were placed in Schedule II, they could not be dispensed by oral prescriptions, and prescriptions could not be renewed without additional visits to the physician. The result would be a waste of patients' time and money without countervailing benefit.

CURRICULUM VITAE—ROBERT HOWARD FURMAN

Born.—October 23, 1918, Schenectady, N.Y.

Parents.—Howard Blackall Furman; Jane Blessing MacChesney.

Wife.—Mary Frances Kilpatrick.

Children.—Carol Kilpatrick Furman, born November 4, 1947; Jane Christine Furman, born December 18, 1948; Robert Howard Furman, Jr., born September 19, 1950; Hugh Patrick Furman, born September 7, 1955.

Primary school education in the public schools of Schenectady, N.Y. Graduate, with honor, Nott Terrace High School, Schenectady, N.Y., 1936.

Undergraduate and graduate schools—Awards and Honors:

Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., 1936–40. Degree: A.B. Allison Prize (Debate), Junior Year.

Yale University School of Medicine, 1940–43 (Dec.). Degree: M.D., Alpha Omega Alpha, junior year.

Internship and Residency:

Intern, Medical Service, New Haven Hospital, Jan.–Sept. 1944.

Assistant Resident Physician, New Haven Hospital, Oct. 1944–July 1945.

Assistant Resident Physician, Vanderbilt University Hospital, July, 1948–June, 1949.

Resident Physician, Vanderbilt University Hospital, July, 1949–June, 1950.

Academic Appointments:

Assistant in Medicine, Yale University, School of Medicine, Jan. 1944–July, 1945.

Research Assistant, Dept. of Medicine, Vanderbilt Univ. School of Medicine, Oct. 1946–July, 1948.

Instructor, Dept. of Physiology, Vanderbilt University, March, 1947–July, 1948.

Assistant in Medicine, Vanderbilt Univ. Sch. Med., July, 1949–June, 1950.

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, July, 1950–March, 1952.

Associate Professor of Research Medicine, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, March, 1952–July, 1966.

Professor of Research Medicine, University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, July 1, 1966–June, 1970.

Professor of Medicine, Indiana University Sch. Med., July 1970.