

just came unprepared for that. I would have to tabulate all the drugs that they take.

Mr. DUFFY. Do you regularly prescribe contraceptive drugs?

Dr. KASSOUF. No, I never have. I am in group practice, and we have two gynecologists in the building, and for that reason they have always done that.

Mr. DUFFY. You say you have never done research yourself, but have you read, for instance, the work of Corfman and Seigel which has been mentioned by the previous witnesses today?

Dr. KASSOUF. In the FDA report?

Mr. DUFFY. No; Dr. Corfman and Dr. Seigel recently published a paper in JAMA which set out populations of patients needed in order to conduct statistically valid experiments. Are you familiar with their work?

Dr. KASSOUF. I am not familiar with that article at the moment. Maybe when I see it—

Mr. DUFFY. It was published in 1968.

Dr. KASSOUF. I do not recall it.

Mr. DUFFY. It was an article that several of our previous witnesses referred to or alluded to. As a matter of fact, today Dr. Hertz and Dr. Kistner and also Dr. Bole made reference to that article.

Now, it seems difficult for me to understand how you feel that you, not having done research and not being familiar with a very basic work in this field—a work that one must be familiar with in order to do research or even to analyze the results of research well—would be able to look at any research study and determine that the research was done properly, that the patient populations were sufficiently large to have a statistically valid result.

Dr. KASSOUF. Experimental design is certainly a problem and in the past on several problems I have sought help, as I did when we had this disagreement with the Wright Committee. But if you are asking me whether I—

Mr. DUFFY. Did you say it was difficult—wasn't it your answer that it was difficult, for you to look at a published article and determine whether the research had been properly done?

Dr. KASSOUF. I think most physicians would have to admit nowadays the articles are quite complicated.

Mr. DUFFY. Particularly for one not having done research.

Dr. KASSOUF. I do not think it has to do with that alone, but that depends on your training in biostatistics and epidemiology.

I had suggested we have become more dependent on FDA. The Drill-Calhoun paper had only one series large enough to test the hypothesis. This series was disqualified by FDA. I do not think the average practitioner would realize that. You would have to be a mathematical expert. I know if you are testing for reaction in 1,000 or 2,000 and test a series of 850 people in Puerto Rico you are probably going to miss it.

Mr. DUFFY. Let me ask you another question, Doctor.

Have you read any book or any recognized work on how to conduct research?

Dr. KASSOUF. I have read articles in that regard.

Mr. DUFFY. On how to conduct research? Would you recall any of these articles that you read?