

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Papers of Interest on cancer etiology and causal inference

1. The Committee suggested at the March 2017 meeting that papers of interest be presented as short agenda items to raise awareness for Members and to discuss any issues of relevance to the Committee.
2. Attached at Annex A is a paper on the number of stem cell divisions and the likelihood of cancer (Tomasetti et al., 2017). Annex B contains three selected papers on approaches to causal inference (Vandenbroucke et al., 2016, Broadbent et al., 2016, Pearce and Lawlor, 2016), which are part of a wider special section on causality in epidemiology that can be accessed here:
<https://academic.oup.com/ije/issue/45/6#250304-2617148> (accessed 02/11/2017).
3. Members are asked to consider the papers and provide any comments as appropriate.

Secretariat
November 2017

References

- Broadbent A, Vandenbroucke JP, Pearce N (2016) Response: Formalism or pluralism? A reply to commentaries on 'Causality and causal inference in epidemiology'. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 45(6), 1841-1851.
- Pearce N, Lawlor DA (2016) Causal inference – so much more than statistics. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 45(6), 1895-1903.
- Tomasetti C, Li L, Vogelstein B (2017) Stem cell divisions, somatic mutations, cancer etiology and cancer prevention. *Science* 355, 1330-1334.
- Vandenbroucke JP, Broadbent A, Pearce N (2016) Causality and causal inference in epidemiology: the need for a pluralistic approach. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 45(6), 1776-1786

This is a background paper for discussion.
It does not reflect the views of the Committee and should not be cited.

CC/2017/25 Annex A

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Tomasetti C, Li L, Vogelstein B (2017) Stem cell divisions, somatic mutations, cancer etiology and cancer prevention. Science 355, 1330-1334.

This paper is attached; it is not being made publicly available for copyright reasons

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Vandenbroucke JP, Broadbent A, Pearce N (2016) Causality and causal inference in epidemiology: the need for a pluralistic approach. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 45(6), 1776-1786

Broadbent A, Vandenbroucke JP, Pearce N (2016) Response: Formalism or pluralism? A reply to commentaries on 'Causality and causal inference in epidemiology'. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 45(6), 1841-1851.

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