Dear fellow committee members and Department of Veterans Affairs,

During our committee meeting on September 23, my heart broke as Dr. Beatrice Golomb replied that she did not plan to turn in an RFA to do a follow-on research study with the CoQ10 as treatment for Gulf War illness from her published study. I know that some veterans are looking forward to this as an approved treatment for their illness. As all know, this is but a pilot study and thus is only the starting point to finding a treatment. We do need a larger study now to see if it will be of any help. Veterans need help now.

Therefore, I am asking that we do a recommendation in our yearend report that is send to the Department of Veterans Affairs and in it, we ask:

1. The Department of Veterans Affairs conducts CoQ10 study similar to the CoQ10 that was published by Dr. Beatrice Golomb.

    a. The larger study would use only the effective treatment level as found in Dr. Golomb's study.
    b. The larger study would check to see if there is a difference in the types of CoQ10. That is, the study CoQ10 used by Dr. Golomb and the CoQ10 formula list if or when approved VA, (some type of generic). The reason being for the slight change in this research study is the need to ensure that the end results would also reflect the treatment CoQ10 prescribe to the sick gulf war veterans would produce the same results as the pilot study CoQ10.
    c. This is thus more than a simple double blind study as you will have 2 types of CoQ10 and a placebo.

2. The Department of Veterans Affairs study is conducted in no less than three different VA medical centers. This would ensure a larger number of veterans and that there is no regional effect.

3. This should be done before the VA thinks of using it as a treatment of GWI.

While in our March meeting some had voiced that the RAC should not make a recommendation like this, I feel it is one reason for our existence. I would appreciate everybody's feedback upon my thoughts as stated in this letter.

Thank you,

James A. Bunker