

THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR RURAL STUDIES

221 G Street, Ste. 204 Davis, CA 95616 • Mailing Address: PO Box 2143 Davis, CA 95617
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February 1, 1994

Dr. Fumio Matsumura, Director
Center for Environmental Health Sciences
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616

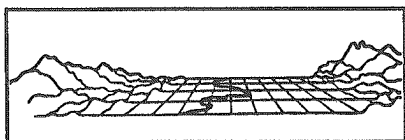
Dear Dr. Matsumura:

Thank you for your recent letter and the opportunity to participate in the recent CEHS Symposium on "women's Health and the Environment." At the same time, I have several concerns about the Symposium which I have shared with Drs. Sassaman & Grieseman. Copies of my letters to them are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Don Villarejo, PhD
Executive Director

Enclosures (2)



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February 1, 1994

Dr. Ann Sassaman
Director of Sponsored Research Programs
NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233
MD 3-01
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Sassaman:

I was a participant in the recent Symposium at UC Davis on the subject of "Women's Health and the Environment" and particularly enjoyed your salient comments during the afternoon session. I also appreciated the opportunity to participate in the community response panel.

At the same time, I was greatly disappointed that only a couple of the scientific presenters were able to attend the community panel session where we had an opportunity to express our views. All of us on the panel attended the entire symposium and, in the limited time available, interacted and presented questions. The fact that so many of the scientific presenters chose to leave before the community panel even spoke was an unfortunate and discourteous statement. The gap between many scientists and the community was nowhere as evident as in their absence during our panel discussion.

Another aspect of the meeting was also troubling. The fact that the scientific presenters were each allotted forty minutes plus a question period while the remarks of the community panel were limited to five minutes each was unfortunate. Moreover, I was not informed of this format at the time that the invitation to participate was formally extended.

May I respectfully suggest that future symposia that seek to involve the community consider other formats. For example, a useful format might consist of several sessions, in each of which one would have the following: two formal presentations of forty minutes duration for each to be followed by a one hour panel of discussants, to include two community representatives as well as one or two scientific discussants. We have used this format with some success in combined community-scientist meetings in the past. To work really well in this format we ask presenters to submit a full draft of their paper ahead of time so that the discussion

panel has ample opportunity to respond in a substantive manner to the formal presentations.

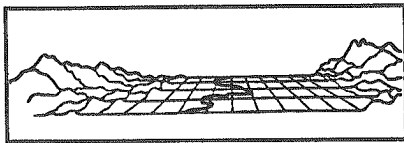
Another alternative which worked well in an international conference in Spain was a session in which the formal presentation consisted of a forty minute formal lecture, followed by one and one-half hour question and discussion session led by a colleague. In this format the formal paper was submitted in full draft form well ahead of the symposium.

I look forward to further involvement in the important work of NIEHS.

Sincerely yours,

Don Villarejo, PhD
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Fumio Matsumura



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February 1, 1994

Dr. Richard Grieseman
Deputy Director
NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233
MD 3-01
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Grieseman:

I was a participant in the recent Symposium at UC Davis on the subject of "Women's Health and the Environment" and appreciated the opportunity to participate in the community response panel.

At the same time, I was greatly disappointed that only a couple of the scientific presenters were able to attend the community panel session where we had an opportunity to express our views. All of us on the panel attended the entire symposium and, in the limited time available, interacted and presented questions. The fact that so many of the scientific presenters chose to leave before the community panel even spoke was an unfortunate and discourteous statement. The gap between many scientists and the community was nowhere as evident as in their absence during our panel discussion.

Another aspect of the meeting was also troubling. The fact that the scientific presenters were each allotted forty minutes plus a question period while the remarks of the community panel were limited to five minutes each was unfortunate. Moreover, I was not informed of this format at the time that the invitation to participate was formally extended.

May I respectfully suggest that future symposia that seek to involve the community consider other formats. For example, a useful format might consist of several sessions, in each of which one would have the following: two formal presentations of forty minutes duration each followed by a one hour panel of discussants, to include two community representatives as well as one or two scientific discussants. We have used this format with some success in combined community-scientist meetings in the past. To work really well in this format we ask presenters to submit a full draft of their paper ahead of time so that the discussion panel has ample opportunity to respond in a substantive manner to the formal presentations.

Another alternative which worked well in an international conference in Spain was a session in which the formal presentation consisted of a thirty minute formal lecture, followed by a one and one-half hour question and discussion session led by a colleague. In this format the formal paper was submitted in full draft form well ahead of the symposium.

I look forward to further involvement in the important work of NIEHS.

Sincerely yours,

Don Villarejo, PhD
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Fumio Matsumura