

FAN's connections to John Yiamouyiannis

For several decades before his death in the year 2000, John Yiamouyiannis—a chemist by training—was a leading critic of community water fluoridation, and he tried to link fluoride to cancer, arthritis and many other health conditions. Paul Connett, leader of the Fluoride Action Network (FAN), was a protégé of Yiamouyiannis. In fact, Connett recalled meeting Yiamouyiannis on the very day he began his anti-fluoride activism. Connett said he was impressed that Yiamouyiannis “spoke so eloquently” about fluoridation.¹



Yiamouyiannis' background reflect fluoride critics' lack of science and credibility. In 1974, Yiamouyiannis began working for the National Health Federation, which had opposed fluoridation for many years. He was also a co-editor of a publication called *Fluoride*, which opponents launched to feature anti-fluoride articles.² In 1978, *Consumer Reports* published a two-part series that explored claims made by Yiamouyiannis and others about fluoridation. The magazine reached this conclusion:³

The simple truth is that there's no "scientific controversy" over the safety of fluoridation. The practice is safe, economical, and beneficial. The survival of this fake controversy represents, in Consumers Union's opinion, one of the major triumphs of quackery over science in our generation.

Soon after these articles were published, Yiamouyiannis filed a lawsuit against *Consumer Reports*, claiming that he had been libeled by the magazine. Two courts heard the case, and both of them rejected Yiamouyiannis' arguments. One of the courts that dismissed the lawsuit issued its ruling in 1980 and found the magazine “made a thorough investigation of the facts” and did so in “the very highest order of responsible journalism.” Furthermore, the court wrote that the evidence proved that a 1977 study conducted by Yiamouyiannis was “seriously flawed” and that his claim of being an epidemiologist “is not substantiated.”⁴



In 1985, a British panel of health and medical experts examined the data that Yiamouyiannis and another leading fluoridation critic had used to link fluoridated water to cancer. The panel called Yiamouyiannis' claims “defective” and said his analysis “displayed errors and questionable procedures.”⁵

In the 1990s, Yiamouyiannis co-wrote a book (at left) claiming falsely that the HIV virus did *not* cause AIDS.⁶ Although Yiamouyiannis had no known scientific training in the field of immune system diseases, he promoted this view at the very time when health officials were struggling to get more people tested for HIV and encourage people to engage in safer sexual practices. It is impossible to know how many Americans were misled by what Yiamouyiannis and his co-author wrote.

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In spite of this, five years after the AIDS book was published, FAN posted a web page announcing Yiamouyiannis' death and praising his contributions. The group described him (see below) as "a man of true honor and integrity."⁷

The screenshot shows the FluorideAlert.org website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (JOIN US, DONATE, Issues, FAN.tv, F.A.Q., News, About FAN), and a search bar. The main heading is "IN HONOR OF DR. JOHN YIAMOUIYIANNIS". Below the heading, it states the source as "Fluoride Action Network" and the date as "October 11th, 2000". The location is listed as "United States, National USA". The main text describes Dr. John Yiamouyiannis as a man of true honor and integrity who passed away on October 8, 2000. It mentions his work in exposing poor science supporting fluoridation and his courage to take scientific truth to political power. A quote from Dr. Robert Carton is included, along with a quote from Bill Sette. The text concludes by mentioning research provided by Dr. Yiamouyiannis and Dr. Dean Burk, leading to a 1977 Congressional mandate for an animal study on fluoride's carcinogenicity.

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IN HONOR OF DR. JOHN YIAMOUIYIANNIS

Source: Fluoride Action Network | October 11th, 2000

Location: [United States](#), [National USA](#)

On October 8, 2000, a man of true honor and integrity passed away. Dr. John Yiamouyiannis, (known to friends and activists as "Dr. Y"), worked tirelessly for many years to expose the poor science supporting fluoridation, and will, we believe, be remembered as one of those rare kind of scientists who has the courage and commitment to take scientific truth to political power.

"I will never forget how fearless he was," said Dr. Robert Carton, a former scientist at the EPA. Carton recalled a presentation Yiamouyiannis gave,

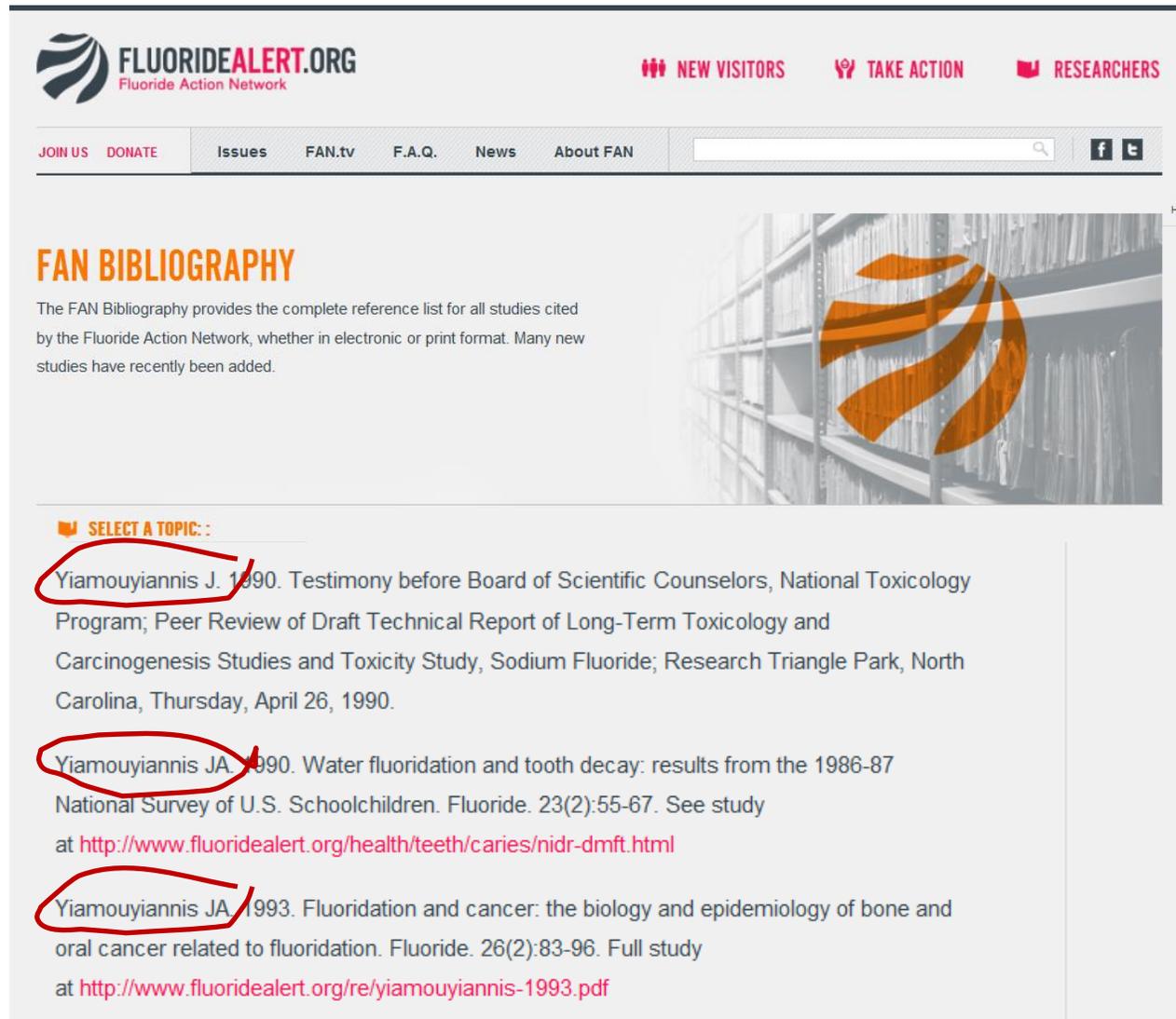
"At a presentation at EPA (at the invitation of the union), he accused a researcher from the University of Rochester of fraud. One of the researcher's students was in the audience (Bill Sette) and he jumped up outraged. John said: take the message back to your professor and have him sue me. John found how the guy had altered data from one paper to another and would have survived easily in court. Needless to say, he was never sued."

It was almost thirty years ago, while working as the biochemical editor at Chemical Abstracts, that Dr. Y became aware of the health effects of ingested fluoride. From then on, he produced some of the most important work on fluoridation.

It was based on research provided by Dr. Yiamouyiannis and Dr. Dean Burk (former Chief Chemist at the National Cancer Institute), that Congress in 1977 mandated an animal study be done to determine if fluoride was carcinogenic.

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FAN's website cites research conducted by Yiamouyiannis:



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FAN BIBLIOGRAPHY

The FAN Bibliography provides the complete reference list for all studies cited by the Fluoride Action Network, whether in electronic or print format. Many new studies have recently been added.

SELECT A TOPIC :

Yiamouyiannis J. 1990. Testimony before Board of Scientific Counselors, National Toxicology Program; Peer Review of Draft Technical Report of Long-Term Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Studies and Toxicity Study, Sodium Fluoride; Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, Thursday, April 26, 1990.

Yiamouyiannis JA. 1990. Water fluoridation and tooth decay: results from the 1986-87 National Survey of U.S. Schoolchildren. *Fluoride*. 23(2):55-67. See study at <http://www.fluoridealert.org/health/teeth/caries/nidr-dmft.html>

Yiamouyiannis JA. 1993. Fluoridation and cancer: the biology and epidemiology of bone and oral cancer related to fluoridation. *Fluoride*. 26(2):83-96. Full study at <http://www.fluoridealert.org/re/yiamouyiannis-1993.pdf>

Sources:

¹ Connett's quote is from: "In Honor of Dr. John Yiamouyiannis," Fluoride Action Network, October 11, 2000, <http://fluoridealert.org/news/in-honor-of-dr-john-yiamouyiannis/>.

² *Yiamouyiannis v. Consumers Union of United States*, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, No. 470, Docket 79-7541, 619 F. 2d 932 (1980), argued December 12, 1979, decided March 19, 1980, http://www.leagle.com/decision/19801551619F2d932_11387.

³ Stephen Barrett, M.D., "Dr. John Yiamouyiannis, Fluoridation Opponent, Dead at 58," Quackwatch.org, an article posted in 2000 and updated in 2013.

⁴ *Yiamouyiannis v. Consumers Union of United States*, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, (1980).

⁵ Professor E.G. Knox et al, "Fluoridation of Water and Cancer: A Review of the Epidemiological Evidence," Report of the British Working Party on Fluoridation (1985), <http://www.dentalwatch.org/fl/knox.pdf>.

⁶ John Yiamouyiannis and Peter H. Duesberg, *AIDS: The Good News Is HIV Doesn't Cause It*, (Health Action Press, 1995).

⁷ "In Honor of Dr. John Yiamouyiannis," Fluoride Action Network, October 11, 2000.