

Interview with Angel De Fazio,
President of the National Toxic Encephalopathy Foundation

Interviewed by Lucinda Hodges

When and why did you become President of the NTEF?

I became the President in 1998 when the foundation was founded. I had specific goals to achieve and set out to obtain them.

What do you enjoy the most about being President of NTEF?

I enjoy several aspects of my Presidency. I am fortunate to be surrounded by extremely knowledgeable people who complement each other and are supportive of the various directions I feel we should go. There are no ego's within the foundation to contend with, which in this day and age is a rarity. I have the final decision on issues but rely heavily on my directors for their opinions which I value immensely. Although I can override their advice, most of the time they have proven to be right and they have the best interests of the foundation and the chemical injury community at the root of their decisions. Secondly, thru the foundation I can gain access to a myriad of people that I would not be able to access under other conditions.

The major drawback to being President is that people don't disassociate Angel the person from Angel the President. Angel the private citizen has a right to be an individual and is entitled to enjoy life without my views reflecting negatively on the foundation. I feel the title President carries one hat that once removed does not carry over into one's private life.

What brought you to be involved in the chemical injury and specifically toxic Encephalopathy?

I was poisoned initially by the uneducated founders of the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine in Arizona. They initially had us in a free standing auditorium for lectures and in a room with heavy plastic sheeting to act as a wall for the cadavers, in a row of single story buildings. The formalin was vented out into the air that was near our lecture auditorium and outside dining area. We did a lot of outside work and the consistent inhalation started the cascade into the world of chemical injury.

Then they relocated us into the new classroom building which was a renovated health club. The make-shift cadaver lab in this building was no better, as our lecture room was about 2 rooms down and they vented the cadaver lab out into the back of the building. We normally kept the door open and the VOC's were not just inside of the building, but, being brought in with the outside fresh air. The offgassing of the desks and cheap building materials added to the total body burden. After leaving to save my health, I returned to Las Vegas and started my campaign to regain my health.

I worked for years with both an allopathic physician who is associated with the AAEM and a nurse who is a licensed homeopath, acupuncturist, with a degree in Traditional Chinese Medicine. It took 3 years and I was able to regain about 85% of my health back and work with accommodations. I was still sensitive but nothing as traumatic as it was initially.

I, like the majority of others who become active with issues is because it either affected themselves or those close to them.

Can you tell our readers about the recent FDA Petition, sponsored by NTEF, to declare Angel perfume a drug?

Initially, I, as a private individual, had Angel Parfum reformulated for use during my litigation against Clarins and Nordstroms. Additionally, I had it tested for possible respiratory effects, which were confirmed by Anderson Laboratories. The deceptive testing practices employed by Clarins were astounding and an affront to the American consumer. When I realized its potential for permanent harm, I brought it to the attention of the foundation and we decided to use my information for the petition. I personally have been very fortunate to know a lot of people who are working behind the scenes to assist the foundation in this endeavor.

Most people do not know that when the assault came and how in under 2 seconds all my health gains were lost forever. While shopping at Nordstrom's here in Las Vegas an untrained, highly programmed employee of Clarins, Shanin Nowee, sprayed me with Angel Parfum that resulted in my permanent disability. During the deposition of this demonstrator, the lies that Clarins extolled to their employees was evident and the extend a corporation will go to sell a product, was not acceptable.

Thru the discovery process I was able to obtain the testing done on this product, which was so shoddy and invalid that it was the impetus for the petition

The foundation has nothing but the deepest thanks to Barb Wilkie and the EHC for their ground breaking petition to the FDA asking that Eternity by Calvin Klein be declared misbranded. That opened the door for us and other groups to tackle this issue at the federal level.

The foundation had been very quiet in its activities until now. Now, thru, numerous press releases and media interviews we are becoming very public and vocal in our activities.

Are there more FDA petitions sponsored by NTEF?

We anticipate submitting at least 2 or 3 more by December 31, 2007 involving both fragrances and cosmetics." Angel Parfum was the easiest one to start with, as we readily had the relevant information thru their own admission in the court case. And used that information to go after them at the federal level.

We have publicly invited the CEO of Clarins Paris, Christian Courtin-Clarins and his Director of Research to meet the NTEF in a face to face press attended meeting to address the petition. We have also requested that they prove with their research and independent testing their claims of safety and their marketing claims of being naturally and botanically based.

What can Pariah readers do to support the NTEF FDA petitions?

Read the petitions thoroughly and understand that the allegations asserted can be laterally applied to most imported cosmetics and fragrances. Then submit comments: Get COMMENTER. The full petition can be read at: <http://www.national-toxic-encephalopathy-foundation.org/PETITIONFDA.pdf>

We would appreciate your support for the issues and suggestions for future petitions.

If you could eliminate one product or chemical which one would you ban?

Of course, most readers would expect me to say Angel Parfum but, there are so many other companies that incorporate a litany of the same ingredients it's hard to identify just one. The myriad of chemicals used in fragrances makes it impossible to isolate just one.

"Rather than just chose one chemical, I would have to say the entire class of synthetic hydrocarbons. Second choice would be petrochemicals at all levels of use in or on our bodies."

Any final comments for our readers?

We know that our greatest enemies are industry and defense law firms. We know that they will try anything to suppress our efforts to gain recognition of the hazards associated with fragrances, pesticides, air fresheners etc. We have to be extremely aware of those who seek to divide our community by creating fake identities, fraudulent non-profit foundations, concerned and caring personas. When we discover fakes, frauds in our community we need to identify them and eliminate those cancerous growths immediately and all affiliated pre-cancerous cells.

All chemical injury foundations and activists needs to be completely transparent. If you can not be visible at all levels you need to walk away and cease duping a very injured and educationally hungry community. People come to foundations, activists, discussion groups to try and understand their health issues. Being lulled into a false sense of "brotherhood" by con artists, manipulators, wolves in sheep's clothing does not achieve the intended goal of the seeker, it only leads to following these con artists like lemmings off the cliff into the ocean.

Remember one thing, if a leader refuses to show their face or meet those they profess to help avoid them at all costs. You will be burned eventually when you discover they used you to their advantage and only selectively disbursed information they wanted you to know about.

As the biggest deceiver signs off on her emails: Aloha!