

Press Conference, Tuesday 5th April 2011

Statement of Klavs Birkholm

The **Helsinki-declaration** has been adopted by the World Medical Association (WMA) to ensure, that medical staffs and professions comply with high principles of human dignity and human rights when involved in research and experimental treatment. The first Declaration was carried through in Helsinki in 1964¹ on the historical background that a very large number of physicians in the Third Reich had participated in cruel and inhuman research and treatment – and afterwards claimed, that since they were just following orders in carrying out their profession, they could not be held responsible for the end-use of their contribution, the Final Solution.

This ethical mumbo jumbo must not be a temptation for any member of the World Medical Association. That is the essence of the Helsinki Declaration.

Today I call upon all medically trained employees at Lundbeck – including CEO Ulf Wiinberg, Chief of Research Peter Høngaard Andersen and Chief of Drug Development Anders Gersel Petersen – to all comply with the Helsinki-Declaration.

Meaning in plain talk: The end-use of drugs developed and produced by Lundbeck is not only legally, but also ethically your responsibility.

You all know this of course, even though you might not recognise it. For example – let's for the sake of argument make the following experiment of thought: Suppose that India decided to exterminate all its muslim population, around 18 percentage of all people in India, and suppose Lundbecks pentobarbital was purchased for the purpose. Do you think Lundbeck would handle the matter just as in they do in the case of Cleve Foster on the Texan Death Row? Of course not. Today Lundbeck do as they do because they somehow accept the legal right of Texas to exterminate Mr Foster. – Which means they do not, so far, comply with the Helsinki-declaration.

¹ Amended latest in Seoul, 2008.

As you can see from several statements in today's report from Reprieve, execution by pentobarbital is in its essence a medical experiment carried out on a human being, Cleve Foster, without even the slightest risk assessment. The use of pentobarbital as an agent to induce anesthesia has no clinical history. And several experts claim, that should anesthesia not occur, Mr Foster's death process in Texas would be extremely painful.

I therefore call upon Lundbeck and upon Mr Wiinberg especially to provide a kind of company report on the safety of the use of pentobarbital in injection procedures. This would also be a demand under the protocols of the Helsinki Declaration.

Likewise I call upon our Danish Minister of Commerce, Mr Brian Mikkelsen to explain to the company management of Lundbeck, that Corporate Social Responsibility should today be an asset of all major Danish companies.

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