



## Dr. Glenn E. Robinson

Associate Professor (NS/RB)  
Naval Postgraduate School  
Monterey, California 93943

Research Associate  
Center for Middle Eastern Studies  
University of California, Berkeley



11 February 2008

Kathleen Lee  
Aide to Supervisor Dave Potter  
Fifth District, Monterey County  
*via hand delivery*

### Rancho Canada Village & Abby's lungs

Dear Kathleen,

I'd like for you to pass this on to Dave, but I'd appreciate it if you would read it first in your role as a young mother. You'll know exactly where we are coming from.

You must have met our Abigail at a CVA picnic or elsewhere. An irrepressible ten year old now, she is the very epitome of life, of the possible, of the future. And, it turns out, she is a really good speller, too! You would never know by looking that Abby has cystic fibrosis, the leading genetic killer of kids and young adults in the country. It very nearly killed her at three months of age. We were lucky that she had just been transferred to Stanford Hospital's pediatric intensive care unit the night her organs started failing one after another, to the point of going into cardiac arrest. She was given a 95% mortality expectation, and Elizabeth and I were advised to start planning her memorial service.

After seven weeks in the hospital, with Elizabeth living at the Ronald MacDonald house in Palo Alto to be by her side, Abby came home – very sick still, but alive. The doctors credit Abby's iron will with keeping her alive, something they correctly warned us we would see in spades as she got older! Abby has had daily treatments for the past ten years, which have kept her healthy in the face of this incurable disease. She does three treatments per day when she is well, more when she is sick, including her evening chest percussion therapy where I thump 16 areas around her lungs to dislodge the muck that accumulates in her lungs. Elizabeth and I also went right to work raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in order to find a cure. We have raised about \$300,000 for CFF to date.

On a recent quarterly visit to Stanford's Cystic Fibrosis Center, we asked her doctor if we should be concerned about the construction of RCV when it comes to Abby's lung health. Her doctor, Richard Moss – a world class scholar of cystic fibrosis and pulmonary biology – was extremely concerned for Abby, and for other kids at Carmel Middle School with asthma and other lung-related problems. He wrote the attached letter as an expression of his concern. Please read it carefully to know why Elizabeth and I are so worried, and will do what it takes to protect our daughter. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

phone: 831-656-2710

e-mail: grobinson@nps.navy.mil

fax: 831-656-2949



**STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**  
**Department of Pediatrics**  
**Center of Excellence in Pulmonary Biology**  
**770 Welch Road, Suite 350**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94304**

*Richard B. Moss MD, FAAP, FAAAAI, FCCP*  
*Professor and Chief, Allergy-Immunology*  
*Director, Cystic Fibrosis Center*

*Tel: 650-723-5191*  
*Fax: 650-723-5201*  
*[rmoss@stanford.edu](mailto:rmoss@stanford.edu)*

February 5, 2008

Glenn and Elizabeth Robinson  
61 Southbank Road  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Dear Glenn and Elizabeth,

Thank you for apprising me of the proposed construction next to Carmel Middle School, which Abigail will attend in the fall. I share your concerns. For children with cystic fibrosis like Abigail, for those with asthma, and, indeed, for any child, such close proximity to an active construction site can present serious risks to pulmonary health and well-being.

I have three specific concerns. First, ground silica is common in soils in California and routinely becomes airborne during construction, particularly when large amounts of fill are involved. Silica is a microscopic particle that can lodge itself deep inside the lungs, scarring lung tissue and decreasing lung function. Such silicosis is dangerous for anyone, but especially for those people, like Abigail, who already have impaired lung function and cannot tolerate further avoidable toxic or irritant exposures.

A second concern is the fungus *Aspergillus*, also commonly associated with construction sites where disturbed building materials or soil may release airborne spores of this mold. You mentioned the construction site abuts the Carmel River, an environment I would expect to be rich in the *aspergillus* mold. *Aspergillus* can provoke a variety of lung problems including asthma and more serious allergic reactions in people with pre-existing asthma or cystic fibrosis. This has been shown to have potentially serious consequences for people with cystic fibrosis.

Third, acrolein is a toxic component of diesel exhaust. While individual construction trucks likely do not pose a significant risk, a high concentration of diesel exhaust in close proximity to the school is of great concern, especially if the dispersal pattern is not favorable. Acrolein can cause such severe lung irritation that it was used as a chemical weapon during World War One. It is also a suspected carcinogen. As with silica and *aspergillus*, acrolein can be dangerous to anyone, but is of special concern to children with impaired lungs.

**Onciano, Jacqueline x5193**

---

**From:** Lee, Kathleen M. 647-7755  
**Sent:** Friday, February 22, 2008 4:38 PM  
**To:** Onciano, Jacqueline x5193  
**Subject:** Comments on Rancho Canada Villag : EIR



AR-M237\_2008022  
2\_163519.pdf (1...

acqueline,

The attached letter was to be copied to you to be included in the public comments of the Rancho Canada EIR, but I didn't receive confirmation that you received it, so I am sending it to you via email. Thanks, Kathleen

AR-M237\_20080222\_163519.pdf;

