

Extract from a letter to Richard Bramhall from Dr. Robin Whyte. 16th April 1996  
Dr. Whyte is discussing his work on weapons test fallout and infant mortality:  
Whyte R. K. (1992) 'First Day Neonatal Mortality since 1935: a Re-examination of the Cross Hypothesis' *British Medical Journal*, 304: 343-6  
<http://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/304/6823/343.full.pdf>

"Professor Ernest Sternglass' original observations on the relationship between geographical rainfall and infant mortality were very fine and exemplary pieces of work, and his treatment by the scientific community was nothing short of appalling. ... I was extremely tentative about mentioning atmospheric testing in the paper and included it only as a terminating remark, but on looking back I see that Professor Kenneth Cross also mentioned it as an idea in his original paper on the phenomenon in 1973.

I issued a challenge through my paper in the BMJ in 1992 and at two international paediatric meetings inviting perinatologists to suggest hypotheses alternative to the notion of Strontium fallout as a cause for the disturbances in the falling trend in infant mortality and stillbirth rate. I can now report that no such alternative hypothesis has been advanced. This is weak evidence indeed to support the Strontium notion but I can add a little more evidence, as presented a couple of years ago at the European Congress of Perinatology. Where there is adequate data describing first day mortality and stillbirth rate from the 1930s to the present day (and there are very few places which have this information) there is a relationship between the size of the disturbance in mortality data and the expected precipitation of Strontium 90. The countries in the northern hemisphere with twice the fallout over that period experienced twice the attenuation in the fall on mortality rates. There is also no doubt that the phenomenon I described in the BMJ article is visible in all countries for which there is data. ... "

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Dr. Whyte was replying to an invitation to the Westminster [Symposium](#) 1996:-

In 1996 MEDACT and LLRC convened a meeting in the House of Commons to discuss radiation risk. The Co-Chairs were Cynog Dafis MP and the late Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, President of MEDACT and a former President of the Royal College of Physicians. Sir Raymond said in closing the meeting:

"... it's important to keep on doing the research. It's important to keep producing the evidence, whether it is epidemiological or biological, until finally you convince governments or other authorities that the risk is real and that something has to be done about it to reduce, minimise or eliminate that risk completely. You have to keep plugging away until finally someone accepts the evidence and acts."