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AUTHENTICATION REVIEW OF SELECTED MATERIALS SUBMITTED TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION RELATIVE TO APPLICATION OF SEARLE LABORATORIES TO MARKET ASPARTAME

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UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATED
FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN PATHOLOGY, INC.

AUTHENTICATION REVIEW OF SELECTED MATERIALS SUBMITTED TO THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION RELATIVE TO APPLICATION OF SEARLE LABORATORIES TO MARKET ASPARTAME

prepared by

Universities Associated for Research & Education in Pathology, Inc.

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CHAPTER I
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

It is the purpose of this initial chapter to present a brief overview of UAREP's validation studies of Searle projects with the principal conclusions. As studies may interrelate, an attempt will be made to draw correlative conclusions.

The general background and UAREP's approach to these authentication studies is presented in Chapter II. From nearly 100 studies which Searle has presented to the Food and Drug Administration to justify its application to market its artificial sweetener, aspartame, 12 were selected by the FDA and other parties for UAREP's review. There were five major studies of long-term toxicity effects involving the dog (Chapter III), rats (Chapters IV and V), and mice (Chapters VI and VII). Two special neuropathology studies (Chapters VIII and IX) reviewed the brain sections from the studies described in Chapters III, IV, and V. The balance of the UAREP report comprises smaller studies involving the effects of aspartame in newborn rats (Chapter X); a two-generation reproductive study in the rat (Chapter XI); a series of screening tests for endocrinological and physiological responses (Chapter XII); a minor report covering a few inconsequential observations on pregnant monkeys (Chapter XIII); and a major study of the effects of aspartame and its metabolites in embryogenesis and teratogenesis in rabbits (Chapter XIV)

UAREP did not participate in the selection of these studies. UAREP undertook this authentication without any prior bias regarding the studies, and adequate precautions were continued throughout its work to maintain independence from the views of any of the interested parties relative to the proposed use of aspartame. Both Searle and FDA requested that UAREP refrain from commenting on experiment design, for the safety of aspartame for human consumption. Any UAREP interpretation of results applies only to the experiments as designed. UAREP has addressed itself to the question of whether the experiments were carried out according to protocol plans and the accuracy and reliability with which the experiments were performed and reported to the FDA. We have, at times, commented on the interpretation of the significance of the data.

RESUME OF SEARLE STUDIES

In the following 12 sections, UAREP's conclusions regarding the various Searle studies will be summarized. Some attempt will be made to quantitate not only the number, but the magnitude and significance of discrepancies and problems noted. They will be presented according to the chapter numbering in this report, beginning with Chapter III.