

Report from the Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers Liaison

Prepared by Amy Brown

June 7, 2001

This project is a national initiative to improve the capability of primary health care providers to recognize and treat pesticide-related illnesses. The project was developed under a collaborative effort of EPA, USDA, the US Department of Health and Human Services, the US Department of Labor, and the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF). AAPSE was solicited to provide guidance through representation on the federal planning committee (John Impson, Larry Olsen, and Amy Brown) as well as on all three subcommittees (Pat O'Connor-Marer -- Practice; Barry Brennan and Terry Miller -- Resources; and Amy Brown -- Education). The work of the subcommittees resulted in a draft plan which was distributed nationally in fall 2000.

Throughout the past year, Brown has been serving as the pesticide consultant on a team of doctors and nurses writing pesticide curriculum guidelines for incorporation into 1.) medical and nursing schools and 2.) continuing education of primary health care providers. In the first week of June 2001, the authors' final draft of these two documents was submitted to NEETF for editing. Names of three AAPSE members have been suggested as reviewers, and it is anticipated they will be contacted in late summer or early fall of 2001. In addition, Brown has been named to the committee planning a national forum on this issue for early 2002.

AAPSE has been the principal source of pesticide content information and has been very important in providing credibility on this initiative. The agencies and individual cooperators have been most receptive to AAPSE's input.