ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

WHEN DOES THE EVIDENCE JUSTIFY THE CLAIM?

HELEN BISHOP MACDONALD

NUTRISPHERE

• ENOUGH OF ANYTHING MIGHT DO....
ANYTHING

- HOW HIGH IS UP?
- HOW HIGH THE MOON?

WHO IS MAKING THE CLAIM?

Is it an independent health group?

Is it a branded product?

FOOD

Help yourself to ketchup

— it's good for you

Bright-red, cooked tomato products are loaded with heart-disease lighting nutrients, scientists find

**Market As as he was he will be discussed to the state of the state of

HEALTH CANADA:

A HEALTHY DIET WITH ADEQUATE CALCIUM AND VITAMIND, AND REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, HELP TO ACHIEVE STRONG BONES AND MAY REDUCE THE RISK OF OSTEOPOROSIS.

CANADA'S REGULATIONS

Health Claims in Canada Guiding Principles

- 1. Health claim statements must
- · be supported by acceptable scientific evidence
- be truthful and not misleading, consistent with the scope and nature of the scientific evidence
- not conflict with national health and nutrition policies and guidelines
- not imply cure, treatment or prevention of diseases or adverse health conditions.

Health Canada. November 2000. Internet: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/foodaliment/ins-sc/ne-en/health_claims-allegations_sante/e_soe fact sheet.htm.

Health Claims in Canada Guiding Principles

- 2. Foods bearing health claims must
- · be safe for consumption as intended
- have appropriate nutrient composition to avoid promoting consumption of foods that might increase risk factors for certain diseases or that have little nutritional value
- provide the claimed benefit in amounts that can reasonably be consumed as part of a normal diet.

Health Canada. November 2000. Internet: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/foodaliment/ns-sc/ne-en/health_claimsallegations sante/e soe fact sheet.htm.

Health Claims in Canada Guiding Principles

- 3. Context and labeling
 - Health claims, and risk reduction claims in particular, should be made in the context of the total diet to help consumers make informed choices in adopting a healthy diet.
 - When a health claim is made, the label must also provide adequate information including nutrition labeling to allow users to assess the product for themselves and to facilitate safe use of the product.

Health Canada. November 2000. Internet: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/foodaliment/ins-sc/ne-en/health_claimsallegations_sante/e_soe_fact_sheet.htm

Health Claims in Canada Guiding Principles

4. Health relevance

- The health benefit of the product should be meaningful and relevant to the target population, and sustainable under typical or intended conditions of use.
- Priority may be given to products intended to address conditions of public health significance.

Health Canada. November 2000, Internet: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/foodaliment/ins-sc/ne-en/health_claimsallegations_sante/e_soe_fact_sheet.htm

Health Claims in Canada

Food and Drug Act & Regulations

Prohibit sale or advertisement of products which indicates a treatment, cure or preventive role for diseases or disorders listed in:

Schedule A – wide range of diseases and disorders including CHD, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, obesity and arthritis

Also serum cholesterol, glucose etc

- SCIENTIFIC FACT
- MAY CHANGE AS YEARS GO BY

• IS THE PUBLIC WELL SERVED BY CLAIM RESTRICTIONS?

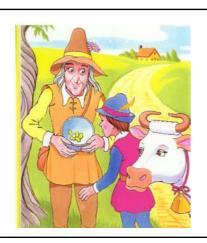
• SOMETIMES: YES



Something fishy about new fad in 'brain food'

Tuna eyeballs said to boost academic efforts





• NO...IF THE BUREAUCRATIC LANGUAGE IS TOO SUBTLE: "A HEALTHY DIET WITH ADEQUATE BLAH, BLAH, BLAH"

• THE MAJOR ENDEAVOR OF GOVERNMENT REGULATORS IS TO....

AVOID EGG ON THE FACE

RULE NUMBER 1:

MEDIA PRAISE NEGATES THE NEED FOR A CLAIM

OMEGA-3 FATTY ACIDS

FREE-RANGE HENS AND EGGS

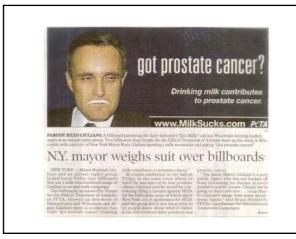
TOFU

SOMETIMES IT'S TOO HARD A SELL:

TOFU

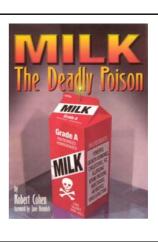
EAT MORE BROCCOLI

ANTI-DAIRY GROUPS NEED NOOOO EVIDENCE





Milk is not a natural!
Human beings are the only species to drink the milk of another species



• WHAT TO DO?	Keep inundating health professionals with evidence • KEEP INUNDATING GOVERNMENT REGULATORS WITH EVIDENCE • KEEP INUNDATING THE MEDIA WITH EVIDENCE
CLAIMS THAT EVENTUALLY SHOULD BE ACCEPTED:	OSTEOPOROSISOBESITYHYPERTENSIONTYPE 2 DIABETES
COLON CANCERKIDNEY STONESGOUT	BREAST CANCER HEART DISEASE

• PMS

- THAT FOOD IS MILK

