

July 6, 2005

Division of Dockets Management
Food and Drug Administration
Dept. HHS
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Number 02P-0317

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada is a founding and very active member of the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF). Started in 1968, the MSIF links 39 national organizations from Argentina to Zimbabwe to share information and promote MS awareness and research

The mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada is to find a cure for multiple sclerosis and enable people affected by MS to enhance their quality of life. In response to an Internet document claiming that aspartame consumption causes a toxicity that mimics the symptoms of multiple sclerosis and lupus, the site specifically states:

- “There has been no published peer-reviewed research on aspartame and multiple sclerosis, which would support these claims.”
- “There is no evidence of an MS ‘epidemic’, as stated in the document.”

In addition, the site encourages readers to keep several common-sense questions in mind when reading an Internet document or published article. These questions include whether the product supposedly causes a large number of diseases or syndromes, whether the symptoms are mostly subjective (such as headaches or muscle pain) as well as whether the claims are supported by any peer-reviewed references. The MS Society of Canada concludes that the aspartame document fails most of these logical guidelines and does not provide any scientifically supportable evidence.

Respectfully submitted,

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Executive Vice President
Calorie Control Council

