

# WRONG on the SCIENCE

## Science and Medical Experts Explain How Portland Got it Wrong on Fluoridation

*"It's the fourth time Portland has rejected [water fluoridation] since 1956. It's the fourth time they've gotten the science wrong. ...When new medical treatments are implemented, when new drugs are introduced into the populace, there is always some hesitation. There are (hopefully) some clinical trials to back up the new intervention, but the long-term implications are often unclear. Water fluoridation doesn't have this problem. For over 65 years, it has been rigorously tested as a public health measure, and considered one of the most successful measures of the last 100 years ..."*

– **Scientific American** (May 22, 2013)

*"... the anti-fluoride group talks about fluoride as a chemical. It is not a chemical. It is an element. If you want to name the element 'fluoride' as a chemical, you must also name the elements in water, oxygen and hydrogen, as 'chemicals.'"*

– **Eric Walsh, medical professor at Oregon Health & Science University** (May 28, 2013)

*"... fluoridation protects, rather than harms, public health. ...I want to take a moment to further discuss — or perhaps I mean debunk — the notion that anti-fluoride groups are heroically battling some evil industrial compound. Because what they are really battling is compounds that derive from the naturally occurring element fluorine (F)."*

– **Deborah Blum, Wired, Pulitzer Prize-winning science writer** (May 23, 2013)

*"... I'm hard pressed to find [Portland opponents] referring to anything but 'fluoridation chemicals' rather than fluoride or fluoridation. ... the anti-fluoride forces (in Portland) were playing on the public's fear of chemicals and misunderstanding of chemistry to make fluoridation seem a lot more scary than it is. (Actually, it's not scary at all.) As always, the dose makes the poison, and the levels used in municipal water supplies have a long history of safety."*

– **ScienceBlogs.com** (May 23, 2013)

*The anti-fluoride group Clean Water Portland cited "a National Science Foundation study from June 2012 that showed that 43 percent of 'fluoride products' contain trace elements of arsenic, 2 percent contain similar proportions of lead, and 2 percent copper. However, what Clean Water Portland does not say is that the report finds that the amounts of heavy metals found in these samples are so minuscule as to be completely innocuous; none come remotely close to the EPA's Maximum Contaminant Levels. Similar flaws can be found with Clean Water Portland's analysis of many of the studies that supposedly support their cause."*

– **Slate** (May 17, 2013)



This summary is produced by the **Campaign for Dental Health**, a coalition of health, medical/dental and research organizations that believes public health decisions should be driven by sound science. Learn more by visiting [www.iLikeMyTeeth.org](http://www.iLikeMyTeeth.org)