Cranfield press dept media release http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/news/page55907.html

Cranfield's position on Cabin Air Quality report 15 November 2011

A workshop run by Swiss-based organisation Collegium Basilea at the Mitchell Hall Conference Centre owned by Cranfield has resulted in critical publicity on the University's study into Cabin Air Quality for the UK Department for Transport. Collegium Basilea's workshop was organised and chaired by its President Professor Jeremy Ramsden who is also an employee of Cranfield University. Professor Ramsden's contributions on this subject are in an individual capacity and his views do not represent those of Cranfield University. He is not a member of Cranfield's team of professional toxicologists.

Cranfield stands firmly behind its Cabin Air Quality study. This was carried out by our Institute of Environment and Health (IEH). IEH is a centre of excellence with expertise in toxicology, epidemiology, environmental science and risk assessment, and carries out critical health assessments and reviews for a wide range of organisations including UK government departments and agencies, the European Union, and trade bodies and commercial companies. The methodology and findings of IEH's work were clearly and accurately set out in their report which builds on a wide and deep body of scientific evidence. Discussion at and following Collegium Basilea's workshop, related publicity, and comments made by Professor Ramsden do not reflect the University's position and quote selectively from the IEH report. We are monitoring coverage of this issue closely to ensure that our position is accurately represented, and are proactively approaching those who we believe are misrepresenting our work.

EMAIL FROM GCAQE sent to Cranfield media dept:

Dear Ms Bigwood,

I passed your email onto professor Jeremy Ramsden. His response is listed as follows: The message from Denise Bigwood is quite incorrect.

Re. "Professor Ramsden was speaking in an individual capacity and as President of Collegium Basilea, and not as a representative of Cranfield University."

I was speaking in my capacity as Chair of Nanotechnology at Cranfield University, not in an individual capacity and not as President of Collegium Basilea.

The expression "representative of Cranfield University" is unknown to me. It appears to be something unofficial. As a member both of the Senate and the Court, the latter being the supreme governing body of the University, I can consider myself as much a representative of the University as any other senior academic.

Re. "the Cranfield University contaminated air workshop" -- the Collegium Basilea has officially designated the workshop as the "Cranfield University Workshop on Inhalable Toxic Chemicals on Board Aircraft", following standard practice in which such events are identified by the geographical location and the subject.

Therefore, it does not appear to me that any changes in your press release are required. You are welcome to refer Denise Bigwood to me if she has any further queries about the matter.

Kind regards, Jeremy