

New Year's Greetings from the [Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization](#) (ADAO)

Dear AMAC,

As I collect my thoughts for my third annual letter to you, I find myself summing up in my mind the achievements (and trials) of the past year, and looking to the future. And then it strikes me: the relationship between AMAC and ADAO is a vivid example of what's up ahead. Ours is truly a 21st century bond -- a bond made possible only because of the internet.

It was over the internet that we first connected: [Laurie Kazan-Allen](#), a mutual friend, thinking we'd make a good match, introduced me to your Christine Winter, via email. Laurie was right: AMAC and ADAO are a perfect pairing. We share a common goal -- to educate the public about the dangers of asbestos -- and a deep admiration and respect for one another; for the past three years, we have been in frequent contact. And yet, in true modern fashion, we have never met! Christine and I stay in close contact through [email](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#). Without ever having the pleasure of meeting one another face-to-face, we nevertheless see eye-to-eye. Thanks to the power and efficiency of the internet, we are able to partner, cross-publicize, share resources, cross-pollinate, and synergize, constantly pushing forward towards our common purpose -- sharing with the public the truth about "the deadly dust."

At ADAO, we are energized by all the possibilities the new year offers -- particularly in the areas of web technology. Much of our efforts in 2010 will be directed towards fully harnessing these tools, putting them to work for our cause. If you have not yet established an internet presence for your business, or explored the vast universe of the World Wide Web, I encourage you to make that a resolution for the new year.

Whether you're an internet novice or a seasoned "surfer," we hope that each of you will meet us in cyberspace this year, both by joining ADAO's Facebook family, and visiting our virtual 'office' at www.adao.org.

Our new website will be launched in the coming months; please check in regularly and make use of the varied resources there. Of specific interest to AMAC newsletter readers: the numerous videos in our [online library](#), including ADAO's two-minute slideshow, "[Asbestos Kills.](#)" Industry professionals often show this piece ahead of safety and training sessions, to bring home the harsh realities of asbestos. In addition, you can view presentations from our 2007, 2008 and 2009 [annual conferences](#), and hear from international experts in the field about a wide variety of asbestos-related issues.

If you, or someone you know, has been personally affected by asbestos, we hope you'll participate in our website's new "[Share Your Story](#)" feature, an opportunity for asbestos victims to document their tales of courage and strength. As is our tradition, ADAO shares these [narratives](#) with policymakers, personalizing, and bringing a much-needed sense of urgency to, the fight against asbestos.

Also available on our website is the [EIA/ADAO Chrysotile Asbestos Fact Sheet](#), the result of a 2009 collaboration between ADAO and the [Environmental Information Association](#).

This document refutes the asbestos industry's latest fallacious claims that chrysotile is the "one, safe form" of asbestos.

ADAO was borne out of the pain and anger of personal tragedy. My co-founder, Doug Larkin, lost his father-in-law to mesothelioma, the same disease which took my husband, Alan. In 2004, reeling from the devastating toll asbestos had taken on our lives, our families founded ADAO. We were determined to help asbestos victims turn their anger into action, and to combat the paralyzing sense of isolation which comes with asbestos-related disease. Our mission was to be "the voice of the victims." Our goals: to increase public awareness about the risks of asbestos, to push for ban legislation, and to further research into, and treatments for, asbestos-related diseases.

In the past year, the efforts of so many worldwide have helped move us closer to these goals. For the first time in U.S. history, the [Surgeon General's office publicly acknowledged that all asbestos fibers are a risk to public health](#). And the [American Public Health Association adopted its Asbestos Resolution](#), calling on Congress to "pass legislation banning the manufacture, sale, export, or import of asbestos-containing products, including products in which asbestos is a contaminant."

As we head into 2010, my optimism is renewed by these milestones, and we remain motivated by our unwavering belief that, by continuing our work together, we will create positive change.

Many thanks to Christine for extending to us this opportunity to share our reflections and news.

We wish you peace, prosperity, and – most of all – happiness and health in the new year.

If we can ever be a helpful resource, please feel free to contact us. Over [email](#), of course.

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ADAO Website: www.adao.us

Twitter: http://twitter.com/Linda_ADAO

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/lindareinstein>

Facebook: http://apps.facebook.com/causes/186339?m=6d54c0aa&recruiter_id=16509429

ADAO newsletter: <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=0012iKnLLe-neLqk43O-NuvXitT2-pTWD2e>

Chrysotile Asbestos Fact Sheet:

http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org/eLibrary/Educational_Materials/EIA_ADAO_ChrysotileFactSheet.pdf

U.S. Surgeon General's statement

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/news/pressreleases/pr20090401.html>

<http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org/eLibrary/PressReleases/APHAResolution11.10.09.pdf>