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Disclosure

- **Co-inventor of a patent that could lead to marketing of contraceptive pills with folic acid in them**
- **Paid consultant to Ortho-McNeil on this issue**

I Have a Dream

By 2010, no child in the world will develop folic acid-preventable birth defects

I Have a Dream

The United States will be the first country to stop the transmission of folic acid-preventable spina bifida

Today's Satellite Conference

- **Increase the pace towards total prevention**
- **Dr. Cordero—Spina bifida prevention**
- **Melanie and Cassandra Rightmyer—Spina bifida—a family view**
- **Dr. Wenstrom—Preventing other diseases with folic acid**
- **Dr. Oakley—Summary**
- **Questions**

I Have a Dream

The United States will be the first country to stop the transmission of folic acid-preventable spina bifida

Incomplete Prevention of Folic Acid-Preventable Spina Bifida

- Each year 2000 pregnancies still affected by folic acid-preventable spina bifida and anencephaly
- Each year 1000 folic acid-preventable spina bifida and anencephaly pregnancies prevented
- Only one-third of what can be prevented has been prevented

Total Prevention of Folic Acid-Preventable Spina Bifida in USA

- Increase consumption from “enriched” grain products
- Increase consumption from supplements and breakfast cereals

Increasing Consumption from “Enriched” Grains

- FDA should at least double the required concentration of FA in enriched grains
- Most corn meals/flour should be fortified with folic acid
- Grumma should immediately fortify “Maseca Instant Corn Masa Mix”
- Whole grain products should be fortified with folic acid

Campaign To Prevent Folic Acid-Preventable Spina Bifida

- \$100 million a year to CDC
- Increase consumption of supplements (multivitamins) and foods voluntarily fortified with folic acid (breakfast cereals)
 - Paid media/social marketing national campaign
 - Professional education program
 - Oversight, evaluation—especially local serum/plasma folate surveillance programs

Paid Media Campaigns

- They work:
 - Viagra
 - VIOXX
 - Anti-smoking messages
 - Need money

County Health Department Family Planning Clinics

- Folic Acid Friendly Clinics
- Training physicians, mid-level providers (nurse-practitioners, midwives, physician assistants) and nurses
- Include FA promotion and counseling in protocols for patients with negative pregnancy tests, during well visits, during family planning visits, and at post-partum checks

Global Eradication of Folic Acid-Preventable Spina Bifida

- CDC critical leader in global polio eradication program
- CDC budget for global polio eradication about \$200 million a year
- CDC needs \$200 million a year budget for 5 years for global eradication of folic acid-preventable spina bifida

