

Precautionary Principle

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Professional History

- **A one on one decision**
- **Most famous statement by Sir William Osler:**
 - **All medicine is practiced by deciding which side of the fence you do not wish to get caught on**

A short history of PP in the societal arena

- **Rachel Carson is credited with starting the discussion about precaution in her call for a change in pesticide use, etc. 1963**
- **The Delaney clause that prohibits carcinogens in food. 1958**
- **The 10 fold lowering of pesticides in food if data is not available. 1998**

A short history of PP in the societal arena (cont)

- **The European Economic community putting the principle in their treaty under the title of REACH or registration, evaluation, and authorization of chemicals**

A Statement of the Precautionary Principle

The PP provides justification for public policy actions in situations of scientific complexity, uncertainty and ignorance, where there may be a need act in order to avoid, or reduce potentially serious or irreversible threats to health or the environment-----

PP (cont)

- -----using as appropriate level of scientific evidence and taking into account the likely pros and cons of action and inaction.

7 objectives of the 2007 REACH document

- Protection of human health and the environment**
- Maintenance and enhancement of the competitiveness of the EU chemical industry**
- Prevention of fragmentation of the internal market**
- Increased transparency**

7 objectives of the 2007 REACH document (cont)

- Integration with international efforts**
- Promotion of non-animal testing**
- Conformity with EU international obligations under the WTO**

Dose and time of recognition of chemical harm

