

Susan G. Rose, Founder, Mefloquine (Lariam) Action

Susan G. Rose, MPH, JD, 58, a prominent advocate for people injured by reactions from the anti-malarial drug mefloquine, died unexpectedly on Sept. 8, 2009 of coronary heart disease in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Sue earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Oregon, her MPH at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and her law degree at Hastings college of law in San Francisco. She was the founder and co-director of Mefloquine (Lariam) Action in the US (the group originated in the UK). The US group grew from an email at AOL into an organization that provides information and support to people all over the world suffering with toxic reactions to mefloquine. The drug is prescribed to the US military, Peace Corps volunteers, business travelers and tourists as protection from malaria and to treat the disease. Since its FDA approval, the drug has received considerable adverse publicity for its serious neurological side effects and its debated connection with suicide.



Sue helped mefloquine victims understand and cope with mefloquine's neurotoxic effects. She offered them personal support and legal advice, at no charge. She maintained an astonishing storehouse of research about mefloquine, not only on file but committed to memory. She counted some of the world's mefloquine experts as friends.

But above all, Sue felt it her moral obligation to share her knowledge with the people, one by one, who suffer life-altering adverse effects that are often misunderstood, misdiagnosed, and untreated. She and many experts

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believe that mefloquine's risks far outweigh its potential benefits, especially when given to prevent a curable disease. Throughout it all, she maintained a keen sense of humor, reassuring sufferers that "You're not crazy, it's the drug (mefloquine)!"

Ms. Rose was producer of the documentary, *Taken As Directed*, that exposed the life-altering consequences of mefloquine toxicity. She was also an expert on the use of scientific evidence in decision-making for legal and public health communities, and co-author of *Science on the Witness Stand*. She was an adjunct professor at George Washington University, School of Public Health & Health Services. An avid orchid grower, Sue was also a volunteer for the golden retriever rescue organization. She is survived by her husband of 34 years, David Goldsmith, PhD; her brother Jeffery Rose, MD; her mother Beatrice Rose MD, MPH; and thousands of mefloquine survivors all over the world.

The Sue Rose Memorial fund has been established at www.lariaminfo.org to ensure that her work with mefloquine victims continues.