

BLACK DOCTORS IN FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

By John Henry Jones

One of the spinoffs of cancer research reported at the recent National Medical Association Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, was the treatment of several skin diseases with drugs "designed primarily for the management of internal cancers." This was the theme of Dr. Charles J. McDonald, Associate Professor of Medical Science and Director of the Dermatology Program at Brown University, Providence, R. I.

Dr. McDonald discussed the use of methotrexate (used in leukemia control) for severe psoriasis, a chronic and acute inflammatory but benign disease of the skin that afflicts about three per cent of the population. According to Drs. John A. Kenny, Jr., and J. Fletcher Robinson of Howard, psoriasis "occurs less frequently among Negroes than Caucasians."

The dermatologist, also an expert on rare malignant disease of the lymph system that affects the skin, has written extensively of an experimental drug for controlling this disease. It was first developed in the laboratories of Pharmacology at Yale University and the Organic and Biochemical Institute in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Like methotrexate the drug azaribine is an agent that interferes with both normal and abnormal cell growth. Hence its action on the uncontrolled cell growth characteristic of cancer.

Of great interest at the urology panel was a Veterans Administration Study that indicated among patients receiving certain dosages of estrogens "there was a reduction in death rates from cancer of the prostate but an increase in mortality from heart disease." The report was made by Dr. Leslie Becker, active chief of the Urology Department at the VA Center in Wadsworth, Kansas.

Dr. Becker is principal investigator for the VA Urological Research Group that has conducted clinical trials of treatment for prostate cancer for the past 10 years, involving 2,314 patients. The two-part study is reported in "Cancer - A Journal of the American Cancer Society."

The patients will be followed for 15 years or until death.



Dr. Leslie E. Becker, Acting Chief of the Urology Section, Wadsworth Veterans Administration Center, Wadsworth, Kansas

FREE CLINICS AVAILABLE

FREE Clinics available to all residents of limited income who do not have a family physician at the Community Health Center, 940-A West Owens, in the East Mall of the Golden West Shopping Center, sponsored by the Economic Opportunity Board of Clark County. J. David Hoggard is Executive Director, Thomas Wilson, Chairman; and Mrs. Daisy L. Miller, Coordinator.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY



Enoch Henry, II, State of Nevada Poster Child for Muscular Dystrophy helps Mayor Oran Gragson proclaim the month of November as "Muscular Dystrophy Month" in the Las Vegas area, and will aid the Firefighters of the City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, and Clark County Fire Departments, in their Annual Firefighters Boot Drive on November 27th and 28th.

Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America was founded in 1950 by a small group of similarly dedicated individuals, parents and friends of patients who were determined to provide organized support to the scientific fight against Dystrophy and related diseases. Today, Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, Inc. is one of the major voluntary health agencies in the United States, showing how much can be accomplished when concerned citizens band together for a common cause.

Until these diseases are conquered, every man, woman and child can help in some way, through a small contribution, or by enlisting as a volunteer worker. So, when you see a Muscular Dystrophy canister in a place of business, please help to fill it.

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