

Cancer Clue Discovered by Black Scientist

By John Henry Jones
(American Cancer Society Science Writer)
San Diego, California -- A black American scientist reported to the 17th Annual Science Writers Seminar at the Hilton Inn on basic research that could provide "new insight into cancer detection and treatment."

The experimental work described by Charles J. Nabors, Ph.D. of the University of Utah College of Medicine, has to do with the metabolism (chemical changes) noticed in a substance called cortisol, prior to the development of laboratory induced bone cancers in beagle dogs. Cortisol is a hormone (a chemical substance produced by an organ or the cells of an organ). In humans it is produced by the adrenal glands, and among other functions is one of the regulators of normal cell growth. In cancer, cells keep growing wildly. The 41 year-old scientist, an Assistant Professor of Anatomy, is also Chief of the Bio-Chemistry Group, Radiology Division.

Dr. Nabors said his laboratory measurements found that cortisol was being changed more rapidly in the skin of the irradiated animals before their cancers developed. The relation of the abnormal changes of this substance to cancer was also indicated, he said, by a speedup in its metabolism in leukemia and breast cancer patients.

The changes noticed in the substance occurred about 27 months after the dogs were irradiated, but the tumors didn't develop for nearly five years. "The changes we have described may be useful in detecting the pre-malignant state," Dr. Nabors said. A pre-malignant state is a condition that precedes the development of cancerous growth.

If these metabolic changes are found to be conclusively related to the onset of bone cancer, or one of the other cancers, tests might be developed to determine the state of the substance in one's body and thus constitute an important diagnostic tool for the detection of cancer in its earliest and most treatable state.

Future work, Dr. Nabors said, will seek more information about pre-cancerous conditions and their susceptibility to drug treatment.



Interviewed later, Dr. Nabors attributed the scarcity of black American medical research scientists to (1) inadequate preparatory scientific training at the high school and college levels; (2) the economic factors inherent in the black American community; (3) and the patient care orientation of the majority of black American physicians. It was his opinion, however, that more and more black American scientists are being trained who will eventually enter the various fields of medical research.

These views had been shared earlier in interviews with several other eminent black American scientists who have presented their work to past ACS Seminars, where leading cancer researchers and clinicians speak to the nation's foremost medical writers.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Nabors was named a Markle Scholar in 1969 and in 1970 received the Inter-mountain Regional Medical Program Service Award.

Cannon requests 'NEWSPAPER WEEK' Proclamation

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Howard Cannon, praising the diligence and expertise of newspapers in Nevada and the nation, has co-sponsored legislation authorizing and requesting the President to proclaim Oct. 5-11, 1975, as Newspaper Week.

"Every American owes a debt of gratitude to the nation's press, for helping to keep this country great and for consistently maintaining a sharp watch of our various governments. The press must continue to be a free press if the United States as we know it today is to survive," said Nevada's senior senator.

"In joining as a co-sponsor of this legislation, I salute the press and urge all Americans to bear in mind the tremendous job our press has done and continues to do."

The legislation also would designate Oct. 11, 1975, as Newspaper Carrier Day, and Cannon commended the news carriers for their key role in keeping Americans informed.

HEAD START CO-OP

Talented, mostly low-income parents involved in the Economic Opportunity Board's Head Start/CFRP Program have joined together to produce and sell quality, handcrafted articles on a cooperative basis. Various businessmen and organizations (The EOB of Clark County, in particular) are serving in an advisory capacity. In addition, we plan to train new members in

order to stimulate and increase interest in skills and opportunities for the benefit of members and their families.

Southern Nevada residents will have their first opportunity to see a full display of handcrafted, quality merchandise that will be offered for sale in the Mini-Mall across the street from the Stardust on the Strip, March 24-30 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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