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#### THO LAS VEGAS SENTINEL VOICE

### September 7, 1995 The LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE tember Is National Sickle Cell Disease Month

Sickle Cell Disease is a hereditary form of blood disorder found primarily, but not exclusively, in persons of African Descent. It was first described in this country in 1910 by J.B. Herrick. This blood abnormality is one of the most important genetic blood diseases in the United States.

Sickle Cell Disease is frequently characterized by a state of chronic anemia, the presence of jaundice, recurrent episodes of pain, an increased susceptibility to certain infections, growth retardation, and frequently a shortened life expectancy.

name. The underlying abnormality in this blood disorder is the may plug up the small blood presence of an abnormal vessels and shut off or decrease Smoking **Cause Of Early D** 

Cigarette smoking is still the nation's largest cause of premature death: More than 400,000 Americans will die this year of smoking-related diseases.

Tobacco and the Clinician-Interventions for Medical and Dental Practice is the fifth and latest monograph in NCI's Smoking and Tobacco Control series. It provides important and useful information for physicians, dentists, and other health care professionals interested in reducing the tremendous burden of diseases caused by cigarettes and other tobacco products.

The 389-page monograph is divided into five chapters, written and edited by more than 87 experts on smoking cessation counseling, prevention and control, and featuring topics such as pediatric medicine and adolescent smoking prevention.

The monograph also provides many practical tips for involvement in communitybased smoking control programs.

"We need to become smoking experts within our communities to counter the tobacco industry's misrepresentation of scientific fact," said Philip R. Lee, M.D., assistant secretary for health, Department of Health and Human Services. "Health professionals have a responsibility to ensure that the 50 million people who continue to smoke fully understand the health consequences of their behavior, and to provide direct assistance to help these people become nonsmokers."

In 1984, NCI funded a series of 12 clinical trials in an effort to develop more effective ways for physicians, dentists, and other

hemoglobin called sickle hemoglobin in the red blood cells. Under certain conditions of reduced oxygen tension, sickle hemoglobin undergoes changes with resulting stacking of the hemoglobin molecules into rigid filaments.

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The red cells subsequently change their shape and frequently assume a rigid sickle

from which the disorder gets its

The abnormally shaped cells

Biggest

health care professionals to help their patients who smoke.

and 6,100 physicians were

these and related studies a clear

picture not only of which

interventions work but also how

to recruit and motivate

physicians to provide assistance,

and how to institutionalize the

provision of cessation assistance

within the health care delivery

system. Included in the

monograph is a foreword by Lee,

profiling early cigarette

advertising strategies during the

first half of this century. Some

ads were intended to convince

the public that smoking was safe

by using models por- traying

physicians, dentists, and nurses.

One of these ads states:

"According to a recent

nationwide survey, more doctors

smoke Camels than any other

series are: Monograph 1:

Strategies to Control Tobacco

Use in the United States: A

**Blueprint for Public Health Action** 

in the 1990s. NIH Publication

Tobacco or Health: An

NIH Publication 93-3461

Tobacco Control Ordinances in

NIH Publication 93-3532

Health Effects of Passive

Smoking:Lung Cancer and

Other Disorders. The Report of

the U.S. Environmental

NIH Publication 93-3605

Future monographs are

(See Smoking, Page 23)

Monograph 4: Respiratory

Major

International Perspective.

Monograph 3:

the United States.

Protection Agency.

Monograph 2: Smokeless

The other monographs in this

cigarette."

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involved in these trials.

More than 100,000 patients

The monograph distills from

thus result in many of the complications of the disease.

Additionally, the life-span of the sickle cell is significantly shortened resulting in anemia. When the red cells contain a small portion of sickle hemoglobin with the greater remaining portion being normal hemoglobin, the individual is said

blood flow to body tissues and to have sickle cell trait. Sickle cell trait is found in approximately 10% of BLACKS in the United States, which sickle cell anemia is found in 1 in 500 BLACKS in this country, or approximately 50,000-60,000 individuals. In addition to BLACKS, sickle hemoglobin is found in other ethnic groups, particularly people from countries bordering the

Mediterranean Sea and people from Northern Africa and Southern Asia.

Despite its initial description in this country more than 60 years ago, and despite the fact that researchers know more about this abnormal hereditary molecular blood disease than most others, there is still no definitive therapy for sickle cell

anemia and many people remain unaware of its nature and its existence.

As a result of an extreme interest in sickle cell anemia by many researchers, private individuals and organizations and large segments of the population in this country over the past few years, an increased effort in research and service in the problem has been generated.

The Federal government has also developed a program of research and has initiated educational and outreach programs in sickle cell.

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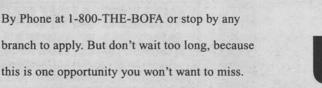
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