

NEWS LETTER

MAY • 1958

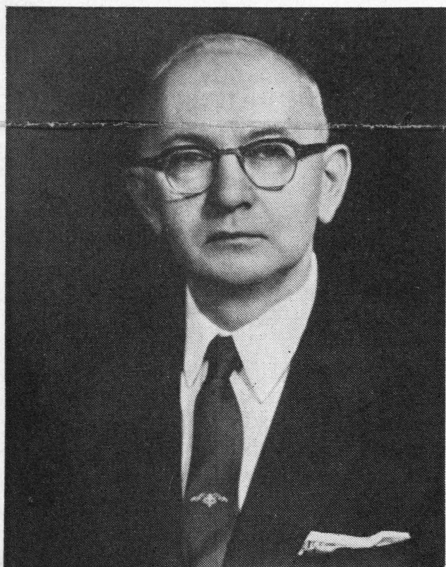
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Texas Medical Center • Houston 25, Texas

BERTNER AWARD GIVEN FURTH

Jacob Furth, M.D., Associate Director of Research at the Children's Cancer Research Foundation, Harvard Medical School, in Boston, was presented the eighth annual Bertner Foundation Award for his outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research.

One of the most interesting discoveries in the history of science was the finding that by exposing an organism to x-rays, vital anatomical and physiological changes could be made to transpire. One of the earliest investigators in this field, Dr. Furth studied the carcinogenic action of x-rays, and induced leukemia by irradiating experimental animals. He found that by the use of x-rays he could induce ovarian, pituitary and lung tumors. These findings had tremendous importance for they provided a technique not heretofore available for the experimental study of cancer. Pursuing his objectives further, Dr. Furth developed two strains of mice,



Jacob Furth, recipient of the Bertner Foundation Award.

Chemotherapy Conference

The third annual clinical conference has been scheduled at MDAH for November 14 and 15. The M. D. Anderson Hospital Conference for Texas physicians will be on "Cancer Chemotherapy". Dr. C. C. Shullenberger, Department of Medicine, is general chairman of the conference.

a high-leukemic strain, the AK; and the Rf strain, in which leukemia may readily be induced by whole-body irradiation. Both of these strains of mice are widely used in leukemia research.

An accomplished pathologist, Dr. Furth has also made noteworthy contributions to the study of human pathology, and is recognized as one of the world's leading cancer experimentalists.

Dr. Furth received the Bertner Award for his outstanding contributions in relating the fields of radiation biology and cancer research by his studies in carcinogenesis. The award was presented at the Symposium dinner by Dean H. Gordon Whaley, of the Graduate School of The University of Texas.

Born in Hungary in 1886, Dr. Furth received his M.D. Degree from the German University of Prague. He studied also at the Rockefeller Institute. In 1945 he was named professor of pathology at Cornell University Medical College. From 1948 to 1950 he was regional director of Laboratory Service for the Veterans Administration in Dallas. In 1950 he was appointed chief of the pathology and physiology laboratory at the biology division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. In 1954 he was named associate director of research at the Children's Cancer Research Foundation.

He is president of the American Association for Cancer Research and has served on committees of the U.S. Public Health Service.

PITUITARY STALK SECTION STUDIED

The effect of pituitary stalk section in the patient with advanced mammary cancer is being studied by Dr. George Ehni, Section of Neurosurgery and Dr. Nylene Eckles, Department of Medicine at M. D. Anderson Hospital. The National Institutes of Health have recently awarded a \$16,000 grant for the study of this procedure.

The study was instigated following reports of tumor regression following hypophysectomy in patients with metastatic breast cancer and the desire to find a method simpler than total hypophysectomy for affecting this central endocrine control. Neurophysiologists had demonstrated that sectioning of the pituitary stalk of certain animals is followed by functional failure of thyroid, gonads, and adrenals.

During the last twenty months, sixteen patients with advanced metastatic breast cancer have undergone sectioning of the pituitary stalk. A polyethylene plate was inserted between the cut ends of the stalk with the idea of preventing re-establishment of the interrupted portal circulation between the hypothalamus and the pituitary gland. Of the sixteen patients, fourteen have survived two or more months. Five have shown worth-while regression of the metastases. In three patients, surviving to date 14, 19, and 22 months, the regression of the tumor has been dramatic. These patients, previously completely incapacitated or bedridden by cancer, returned to "health" and complete normal activity.

Studies of the thyroid, ovary and adrenals show progressive decrease in function, probably slower than that reported following hypophysectomy.

The physicians have cautioned that pituitary stalk section is not a "good treatment for breast cancer". It carries the same risks as any brain surgery and requires some specialized skills. All patients eventually relapse just as after adrenalectomy or hypophysectomy.

SURGERY TELEVIEWED TO SW CONFERENCE

Two color telecasts from The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute were featured at the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Surgical Congress. The 400 surgeons attending the conference at the Shamrock-Hilton Hotel, March 31 to April 2, viewed two surgical procedures which were microwaved from the hospital to the hotel.

This was the first time that a closed circuit telecast of surgery, utilizing a permanently installed compatible color television set-up and manned completely by the hospital's staff, was relayed to such a medical meeting. In previous programs of this type commercial telecasters, temporary installations, and a larger staff were necessary. Within the very near future it will be possible for hospitals with television facilities to benefit by co-ordinating teaching programs through television.

Both telecasts originated from the surgical amphitheatre of the M. D. Anderson Hospital. The color TV signal was relayed via microwave equipment installed on the roof of the hospital by Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., and from there to the 16th floor of the Shamrock. From there it was carried by cable to the auditorium where it was projected.

The first procedure televised was a radical dissection for carcinoma of the head and neck. Dr. A. J. Ballantyne demonstrated the procedure, while Dr. William S. MacComb lead the discussion relating to the procedure in the auditorium. The second procedure demonstrating open heart surgery using cardio-pulmonary by-pass was performed the following day by Drs. D. Cooley and F. J. Harbery, of the department of surgery at Baylor University College of Medicine, with the description by Dr. D. McNamara. During both, two-way communication allowed the members of the audience to discuss important aspects of the procedures with the surgeons.

Both programs were produced by Medical Communications at MDAH.

The NEWS LETTER of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston 25, Texas, is published quarterly to relay information of the research activities and policies of M. D. Anderson Hospital.

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ATTENDS CONGRESS

On March 26 in Austin, Texas Governor Price Daniel, (left) presented Dr. R. Lee Clark, Jr., Director of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute with an official letter that designates him as the governor's official representative at the International Cancer Congress in London in July. The University of Texas branch which Dr. Clark heads will be represented at the meeting by a number of scientific papers. It will be the first international meeting at which the general research program of the hospital will be presented.

(AP Photo)

CANCER CARE RESOURCES

The Committee on Cancer of the Texas Medical Association sponsored a Conference on State and Community Resources for Cancer Care during the annual meeting of the Texas Medical Association. The objective of the conference was to provide information on these resources which are available to those physicians who are associated with Tumor Clinics in communities throughout Texas. Dr. Jack G. S. Maxfield, Dallas, presided.

Aspects of the existing state programs and what they can offer to the physician for the care of the cancer patient were presented by representatives of the Texas State Department of Health (Henry A. Holle), Texas Society of Pathology (John L. Goforth), M. D. Anderson Hospital (R. Lee Clark, Jr.) and the Texas Division, American Cancer Society (J. Layton Cochran).

Problems of gastric cancer were discussed by I. S. Ravdin of Philadelphia. Care of the late cancer patient was presented by Mrs. Edna Wagner, director of medical social service at MDAH. Participating in a panel discussion

REHABILITATION COURSE SCHEDULED

The Rehabilitation of the Laryngectomized, a course sponsored by The University of Texas Postgraduate School of Medicine, is scheduled from June 9 through June 20, 1958.

The course will cover Vocational Adjustment, Anatomy of the Speech Mechanism, Normal Speech and Voice Production, Esophageal Speech and Voice, Laryngeal Surgery, Radiation Therapy, Facts about Cancer and Techniques in Teaching Esophageal Speech. The presentation will combine both the clinical and didactic approach. Inquiries for application should be directed to The Postgraduate School of Medicine, 410 Jesse Jones Library Building, Texas Medical Center, Houston.

GYNECOLOGY FILM MADE

Staff members of the Section of Gynecology, with members of the Medical Communications Department at M. D. Anderson Hospital have completed filming a 16mm color film on "The Nurse's Role in the Gynecological Examination." Filming of the procedures has been sponsored by a grant from the Nursing Branch of the Texas Division of the American Cancer Society.

The film is designed to serve as a visual aid in nursing instruction and training. It also is available, upon request, for the physician to use in training his own personnel in routine and general techniques which are applicable to office and clinic situations. Featured are the breast and pelvic examinations.

Inquiries regarding the scheduling of this film should be directed to Medical Communications, M. D. Anderson Hospital, Texas Medical Center, Houston 25, Texas.

of the resources available to the community in the care of the cancer patient were: Judge Bob Casey, Houston, who presented community and legal aspects of the care of the medically indigent; Irving M. Richman, Beaumont, director of the Jefferson County Medical Society, who explained the organization of a tumor clinic; Miss Eleanor J. Macdonald, consulting statistician to the Texas Cancer Coordinating Council, who explained the "Tumor Registry," and Joe V. Meigs, Boston, who explained followup service.

TWELFTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Radiation Biology and Cancer

The Twelfth Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, held March 6, 7, and 8, was attended by 314 scientists from Texas and 26 other states. The aim of the symposium was to bring together researchers working in the various disciplines which relate to radiation biology and cancer.

Thursday's program was devoted to the biological and medical applications of radiation at The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute. Among those who presented papers were: Felix L. Haas, A. Clark Griffin, Daniel Billen, L. Dmochowski, S. Kawamoto, R. J. Shalek, W. K. Sinclair, M. L. Alexander, J. B. Blizard, Daniel E. Bergsagel, R. G. Rose L. S. Miller, and Gilbert H. Fletcher.

Friday's morning session was devoted to Fundamental Radiobiology, with papers presented by Paul Howard-Flanders, University of California, Simon Koletsky, Western Reserve University, Titus C. Evans, State University of Iowa, Leon O. Jacobson, University of Chicago, John J. Trentin, Baylor University College of Medicine, and C. M. Pomerat, The University of Texas Medical Branch.

Friday's afternoon session was devoted to the Induction of Neoplasia by Radiation, with papers presented by Henry S. Kaplan, Stanford University School of Medicine, C. Lenore Simpson, Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Stanfield Rogers, Duke University School of Medicine and Arthur Kirschbaum, Baylor University College of Medicine.

Saturday's session was on Radiation Biology and Cancer. Papers were presented by Walter J. Burdette, University of Utah College of Medicine, Joanne Hollcroft, National Institutes of Health, W. C. Moloney, Boston City Hospital, Miriam Finkel, Argonne National Laboratory, Harry Rubin, California Institute of Technology, William J. Schull, University of Michigan Medical School and Helene W. Toolan, Sloan-Kettering Institute.

The papers of the symposium will be published and distributed by The University of Texas Press, Austin.

Friday afternoon the Bertner Foundation Lecture, "Radiation Neoplasia and Endocrine Systems" was presented by Dr. Jacob Furth, Associate Director of Research of the Children's Cancer Research Foundation, Harvard



Colonel Robert H. Blount, Deputy Commandant, School of Aviation Medicine, discussed "Bioastronautics" at the official dinner of the Symposium.

Medical School, Boston (see story page 1).

At the official dinner of the Symposium, Colonel Robert H. Blount, Deputy Commandant, School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Air Force Base, presented a lecture on "Bioastronautics."

General chairman for the program was Dr. Warren K. Sinclair, physicist-in-chief at MDAH. The meeting was supported in part by the Texas State Department of Health and the Texas Division of the A.C.S.

The Thirteenth Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research will be on the topic "Genetics and Neoplastic Growth." Dr. Felix L. Haas, head of the Biology Department, will serve as general chairman.

FIRST FELLOW IN RADIOISOTOPES

Dr. Seyed M. Wasti, former professor of medicine (pediatrics) at King Edward Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan, has been named the first medical fellow in the field of radioisotopes at M. D. Anderson Hospital. Dr. Wasti is sponsored by the engineering and scientific studies branch of the office of industrial resources of the International Cooperation Administration in Washington.

Dr. Wasti will spend six months at MDAH learning methods and materials for the clinical use of radioactive isotopes. After his training here, he will spend six months at the Oak Ridge Institute for Nuclear Studies.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Clifton D. Howe, Chief of Clinics, has been appointed to the Publications Committee of the American Heart Association. Dr. Howe is directing medical editor of *The Heart Bulletin*.

Leon L. Dmochowski, head of the section of virology and electron microscopy, was elected, by the Council of the Gerontological Society, a Fellow in the Section of Biological Science.

James McKinley, pharmacist, participated at the 10th Annual Hospital Pharmacy Seminar at The University of Texas. During the seminar, Mr. McKinley was installed as President of the Texas Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

Eleanor J. Macdonald, epidemiologist, was elected President of the Public Health Cancer Association of America, at the annual meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio.

R. Lee Clark, Jr., Director and Surgeon-in-Chief, was elected a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, in recognition of work toward the advancement of science.

Grant Taylor, head of the section of pediatrics, and Dean, The University of Texas Postgraduate School of Medicine, was given a grant of \$17,044 by the National Institutes of Health, for furthering studies in leukemia.

Felix L. Haas, head of the department of biology, represented M. D. Anderson Hospital at the third seminar on Heterologous Transplantation of Human Tumors and Other Tissue. The meeting was held at Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York, March 10-13. After the seminar, Dr. Haas attended the Conference on Screening Procedures for Experimental Cancer Chemotherapy held at the New York Academy of Sciences, March 13-15.

Mary L. Alexander, Daniel Billen, and T. C. Hsu, members of the department of biology, attended a conference on Genetic Approach to Somatic Variation at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, April 2-5.

David H. Ezekiel has been named a Rosalie B. Hite Post-Doctoral Fellow in the department of biology. The Hite Fellowships were established in 1945 for research into the cause, prevention, treatment and cure of cancer. Dr. Ezekiel received his training in genetics at Maryland University and at the University of Illinois.

Eleanor J. Macdonald, epidemiologist, will present a paper entitled "Occurrence of Multiple Primary Cancer in a Population of Two Hundred

Thousand in a 13 Year Period" at the 7th International Cancer Congress, Friday July 11, in County Hall, London, England.

Saul Kit, associate biochemist, presented three papers in April. "Inhibition by 5- Bromodioxyuridine on Deoxyribonucleic Acid-Thymine Biosynthesis of Lymphatic Tissues and Tumors" was presented April 13 at the American Association for Cancer Research meeting in Philadelphia.

"Pathways of Synthesis of Thymine Compounds from C14-Formaldehyde and C14-Methyl Labeled Methionine by Lymphatic Tissues and Tumors" was presented at the American Society of Biological Chemists in Philadelphia, April 14-18.

"Biosynthesis of Deoxyribos by *Serratia Marcescens*," was given by Dr. Alice N. Milner, joint author of the paper, at the American Chemical Society Meeting in San Francisco on April 15.

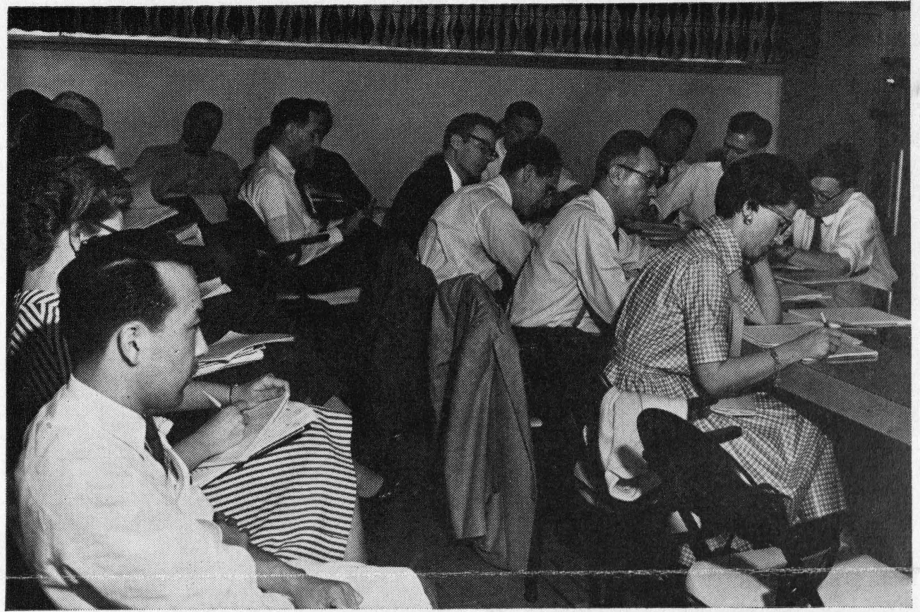
Bruno Jirgenson, department of biochemistry, presented a paper at the San Francisco meeting of the American Chemical Society. The paper was "Dependence of Specific Rotation of Rotatory Dispersion of Globular Proteins on Ionization."

Doctor Jirgenson's new book *Organic Colloids* has just been published by the Elsevier Publishing Company. The purpose of Dr. Jirgenson's 655 page book is to present a condensed survey of the whole field of organic colloids. Colloid science or chemistry deals mostly with the sizes and shapes of small particles and large molecules.

2nd YEAR BOOK SCHEDULED

The second volume of the YEAR BOOK OF CANCER has just gone to press. It will be published by The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago. This volume, containing 25 chapters, consists of 236 abstracts of papers relating to cancer which were selected by an editorial board of 125 internationally known scientists. The editors were selected for their achievements and knowledge of the various disciplines relating to cancer and cancer research.

A special article, reviewing "Oncology in the Soviet Union," was written especially for the YEAR BOOK OF CANCER by Michael B. Shimkin, Head of the Biometry Department at the National Cancer Institute.



Twenty science writers interviewed M. D. Anderson Hospital investigators regarding cancer research projects underway at the hospital, during their tour of major cancer centers throughout the United States. The tour was sponsored by the A.C.S.

NATIONAL SCIENCE WRITERS VISIT HOSPITAL

Twenty science writers interviewed research investigators at M. D. Anderson Hospital on April 9. The group was touring the United States to report on the most significant advances in basic and clinical cancer research at major cancer centers throughout the country. The tour was sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Six Anderson researchers were queried about their investigations. Included in the interviews were Gilbert H. Fletcher, radiotherapist, Felix L. Haas, biologist, T. C. Hsu, microcytologist, Leon Dmochowski, virologist, Saul Kit, associate biochemist, Nylene Eckles, research internist, and Eleanor J. Macdonald, epidemiologist. Projects discussed were: 1) Clinical Investigation of a 22 Mev Betatron in the Treatment of Cancers Infrequently Curable by Conventional Radiotherapy

Techniques, 2) Specific Cellular Substances Required for Induction of Mutation, 3) Cytological Transformation of Human Cell Strains, 4) Chicken Leukemia, 5) The Intermediary Metabolism of Lymphatic Tissues and Tumors, 6) Pituitary Stalk Section and Breast Cancer, 7) Epidemiological Investigations Conducted at MDAH.

The writers were accompanied by Patrick McGrady and Fred M. Learned of the American Cancer Society. News organizations represented included: the Agence France Presse, Mainichi of Japan, Financial Post of Toronto, Wall Street Journal, New York Herald Tribune, Saturday Evening Post, Minneapolis Tribune, Chicago American, Seattle Times, National Academy of Sciences, Boston Traveler, Denver Post, Cleveland News, Science Service, and Pulliam Newspapers.

Appointed to Cancer Control Committee of N.I.H.

James A. Shannon, Director of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, has announced the Surgeon General's appointment of R. Lee Clark, Jr., Director and Surgeon-in-Chief of M. D. Anderson Hospital, to the Cancer Control Committee of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Clark will serve as a special consultant to the Public Health Service, and with other members of the committee advise on matters relating to medical research.

The Cancer Control Committee has the responsibility of reviewing applications for research grants in their respective fields and making recommendations to the national advisory councils, and for surveying, as scientific leaders, the status of research in their field in order to determine areas in which research activities should be initiated or expanded.

The appointment covers the period of Mar. 1, 1958 through Dec. 31, 1961.