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PROGRESS REPORT

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.

Research Grant ENV-6

Environmental Cancer of the Lung: An investigation of the co-carcinogenic activity of inhaled asbestos dust in experimental beryllium neoplasia

Submitted by

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Saranac Laboratory
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Because of the long-term nature of the current experiment on co-carcinogenesis between inhaled beryllium sulphate aerosol and asbestos dust, no informative progress report is as yet possible. All that can be placed on record is that the experiment is proceeding satisfactorily as planned.

The following steps have all been taken:

A. A chamber for exposure of animals to $BeSO_4$ aerosol was prepared and brought into operation;

B. A chamber for exposure of animals to asbestos dust and a brush mill disseminator were constructed and brought into operation;

C. A holding chamber was constructed in which to keep the animals taken out of the exposure chambers;

D. 116 female rats of the Sprague Dawley strain have been exposed to the $BeSO_4$ aerosol for a period of 6 months; thereafter,

51 were transferred to the asbestos chamber,
51 were transferred to normal air,
10 were continued in the $BeSO_4$,
4 were killed at time of transfer;

E. 116 female rats of the Sprague Dawley strain were simultaneously exposed to asbestos dust for a period of 6 months; thereafter,

50 were transferred to the $BeSO_4$ chamber,
50 were transferred to normal air,
10 were continued in asbestos,
2 died,
4 were killed at time of transfer;

F. 51 female rats of the Sprague Dawley strain have been set aside as controls; these animals will not be exposed to any dust and will be sacrificed at intervals matching the sacrificings from the exposed groups;

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C. Of the animals exposed first to the $BeSO_4$,

0 died of natural causes,
4 were sacrificed at the end of the 6-month period of exposure,
4 will be sacrificed at the end of the additional 6-month period of exposure to asbestos dust,
4 will be sacrificed at intervals of 3 months thereafter;

H. Of the animals first exposed to asbestos dust,

2 died of natural causes,
4 were sacrificed at the end of the 6-month period of exposure to the asbestos dust,
4 will be sacrificed at the end of the additional 6-month period of exposure to $BeSO_4$,
4 will be sacrificed at intervals of 3 months thereafter;

I. Of the animals in the control group,

12 rats died of natural causes during the first 6 months,
4 rats were sacrificed at the end of this period;

J. The animals exposed to $BeSO_4$ for 6 months and then sacrificed show incipient alveolar wall epithelial metaplasia;

K. There are not yet any suggestive lesions relating to neoplasia in the animals exposed to asbestos dust for 6 months and then killed;

L. The exposure phases of the experiment will terminate on January 5, 1957;

M. Thereafter further observation and serial sampling of the animals will continue until January 5, 1958.

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