News Briefs

Congratulations to Charles Leiss, former Executive Vice-President of the American Cancer Society, Maine Division, for his promotion to National Representative of the American Cancer Society. He is to be based in Denver, Colorado.

J. Howard Hannemann, M.D., addressed the Rotary Club of Portland at its March 21, 1980 luncheon. "Jake" is Director of Radiation Oncology at the Southern Maine Radiation Therapy Institute and is a Board Member of the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation.

Ronald J. Carroll, M.D., addressed the Bangor Lions Club March 19, 1980. His topic: Discovery Weekend. Head of Medical Oncology at Maine Medical Center, Dr. Carroll is a Board Member of the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Following the success of the first Discovery Weekend, two more are in the works—one in September 1980, the other in January 1981.

Other upcoming events that will be sponsored, in part, by the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation include:

• **a Dental Oncologic conference featuring a guest speaker from Boston in October 1980.**
  • an *Ear, Nose and Throat Tumor Symposium* in the fall of 1980 featuring Dr. C. C. Wang of the Massachusetts General Hospital and Dr. John Batakis of the Maine Medical Center.
  • a *Colon Carcinoma Symposium* (tentative) in March 1981. For further information on these events contact Fletcher Brown in Portland at 773-0668.

Lenore Kraus once again organized her fellow employees at WCSH-TV to take part in the World’s Largest Garage Sale at Cumberland County Civic Center. They raised $185 to benefit the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation.

HELP IS ON THE WAY TO GARDNER’S SYNDROME FAMILY

A family in central Maine suffering from a rare cancer called Gardner’s Syndrome will benefit directly from assistance provided by the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation.

Gardner’s Syndrome is hereditary and carries a lifetime risk of colon cancer in excess of 90 percent. More than a dozen members of the family have already died of the disease.

Through an award of $2,500 to the Sidney Farber Cancer Institute, its Division of Cancer Control will reach out to family members for screening and diagnostic testing.

The object is to prevent lethal cancer of the colon through early diagnosis and treatment.

Strides Told at Annual Meeting

Nineteen seventy-nine was the year the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation broke through the frustrations suffered by all new organizations and developed a significant constituency of both program and financial support.

The Foundation’s Annual Meeting held February 12, 1980 in Augusta provided the perfect opportunity to showcase the year’s achievements.

In January, through the interest and help of Director Dorothy A. Sandler and her family, the Foundation merged with the Maurice L. Sandler Foundation and the Maurice L. Sandler Fund was created.

Bath-based Davenport Trust Fund awarded funds to support six projects, some to advance professional education in Maine, the rest to assist cancer patients and their families directly.

Blood Research Grant Awarded

Cancer of the prostate is one of the major causes of cancer death in men, killing about 20,000 per year in the United States.

Through a grant to the Foundation for Blood Research in Scarborough, the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation will help in the search for an improved blood test for detecting prostate cancer.

As Dr. Gail Hudson, Project Director, explains, "An increase in the serum concentration of an enzyme, prostatic acid phosphatase, may be indicative of prostate cancer."

"At the Foundation for Blood Research we develop, validate and carry out tests which measure the concentration of various serum proteins. Serum, the clear liquid part of blood which remains after the cells have settled out, contains over 100 different kinds of proteins. Each protein is involved in a different biochemical process going on in the body. When anything goes wrong, (e.g., disease, cancer, inflammation) the concentration of proteins will change."

"The only way to measure the concentration of one protein in the presence of over 100 others is to use antibodies. Antibodies are molecules which react with only one kind of protein; they come from animals, often goats or rabbits. The serum obtained from the animal is called antiserum; each reacts only to one specific protein. For example, antihemoglobin will react with hemoglobin only."

The protein found in prostatic cancer is prostatic acid phosphatase. Funds will be used this summer to develop a procedure for detecting...
REPORT ON SLOUTED PROJECTS

TUMOR KINETICS LECTURE

Malignant tumors grow at varying rates of speed. But doctors can predict by a tumor's location and size how long it will take to double in mass. Such information is critical in determining a patient's therapy. Breast cancer, for example, is highly variable. The slower-growing tumors are more likely to have a smaller size and less invasive cancer spread. The faster-growing tumors are more likely to have a larger size and more invasive cancer spread.

Theology, philosophy and psychology converge at Discovery Weekend. Doctors help recently-diagnosed cancer patients think about their lives and communicate with a loved one.

Dr. Ronald J. Carroll, co-founder of the Weekend with Dr. J. Howard Hammann, explains, "There's often a long time between a diagnosis of cancer, treatment, and recurrence. Yet people suffer mentally the whole while. We must give them the tools to think about themselves, to communicate with loved ones and to treat the disease with intellectual and existential being.

In years past doctors could spend time with patients helping them cope with life after a diagnosis of cancer. At that time "the science of medicine was minuscule."

"We see a shift from the personal relationship where the doctor was scientifically impotent to a more impersonal one where physicians have an enormous opportunity through technological advances to intervene in the disease processes."

"But what happens when technology fails?" As terrible as this is for the patient, it can be equally frustrating for the doctor.

Although patients want to know about the technical aspects of their disease, more commonly their concerns focus on "who am I, what is my relationship to other people?"

He and others founded Discovery Weekend to confront and manage these issues.

The first was held the weekend of February 1, 1980 at St. Joseph's in Bellingham. Attending were eight cancer patients each with a spouse or close personal confidante and numerous professional staff including physicians, clergymen, an industrial psychologist and his wife, and a nurse.

Patients were referred by physicians.

The program included six hours on communication skills (e.g., how to share intimate feelings), two hours discussing emotional adaptation to stress, and six hours in theological discussion and services.

All participants attended a follow-up meeting three weeks later.

Although changes will be made in the "curriculum" of future weekends, everyone called the experience "exceptionally satisfying."

Discovery Weekend was financed by participant donations ($35 per person) and the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation through monies earmarked by the Davenport Fund.

**DISCOVERY WEEKEND**

The Thaxter Foundation, the Maine Charity Foundation and the Mabel S. Davies Estate also gave generous support to the Foundation this year. Gifts given in memory of family and friends as well as donations continue to be an important source of support as well.

Over the past year the Foundation helped to pay for and plan numerous programs both for health professionals and cancer patients.

As President Donald Halsey Smith points out, "The Foundation's primary mission is to make certain every Maine cancer patient has the maximum benefit from the rapidly accelerating technology and improved care techniques, regardless of location or economic circumstances."

All funds are expended in Maine.

**BREAST CANCER SYMPOSIUM**

by Stuart G. Gilbert, M.D.

A full day symposium, Diagnosis and Management of Cancer of the Breast, was held at the Maine Medical Center in March 1980. Over 100 surgeons from Maine and New Hampshire attended.

Dr. Benjamin F. Byrd, Jr., M.D., Professor of Surgery at Vanderbilt University and former President of the American Cancer Society, presented the keynote address. His topic was "Breast Cancer 1980, Diagnosis and Evaluation of Risk Factors." In the afternoon Dr. Byrd spoke on the "Surgical Treatment of Breast Cancer."

The other guest lecturer was Dr. Peter Deckers, Associate Surgeon-in-Chief of Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Deckers, the New England Coordinator of the Breast Surgical Adjuvant Project, discussed the status of the nationally controlled Breast Cancer Studies and current concepts in the management of this neoplasm.

Other speakers included Doctors Charles Capron, George Sager, Russell Briggs, Stuart Gilbert, Jean Labelle and Brian Dorski.

In an afternoon panel several physicians mode case presentations. The symposium was sponsored by the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation together with the American Cancer Society, Maine Division and the Department of Surgery at the Maine Medical Center.

An evening program included a reception and dinner at the Red Coach Grill. Five hours of continuing education credits were granted.

**UROLOGY SEMINAR**

The First Annual Robert A. Bearor, M.D. Memorial Lecture attracted 45 physicians and allied health personnel on May 9, 1980.

Funds for the half-day symposium at the Maine Medical Center were provided, in part, by the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation, the American Cancer Society, Maine Division and the Southern Maine Radiation Therapy Institute.

Willet F. Whitmore, Jr., M.D., distinguished surgeon and Professor of Urology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute, delivered the memorial lecture, "Integument Irradiation and Cystectomy in the Management of Bladder Cancer. Through his multitude of scientific papers and presentations, Dr. Whitmore has become recognized as a world authority on urologic cancer. He also brings the reputation of a concerned physician to his patients, an accommodating consultant to other physicians. Daniel M. Hayes, M.D., spoke on "Chemotherapy of Non-Seminoma Testicular Tumors." Following a second talk by Dr. Whitmore, "Uncertainties in the Management of Prostatic Cancer," physicians made case presentations.

Participants in the symposium earned five hours of continuing education credits.