Glucan Project Continues With Help of ACS Grant

Dr. Nicholas R. Di Luzio, chairman of the Physiology Department at Tulane School of Medicine, has been awarded a research grant by the American Cancer Society to continue his work with a promising cancer-fighting molecule—glucan.

In previous studies of laboratory animals, Di Luzio has shown that glucan, a polyglucose molecule found in the walls of yeast cells, is a powerful stimulant of macrophage activity. Macrophages are amoeba-like cells in the body that have the ability, when stimulated, to kill cancer cells.

"The American Cancer Society's one-year grant of $45,000 will enable Di Luzio to continue his development of glucan and the investigation of its effects on cancer cells," said Dr. Robert M. Beazley, chairman of the Society's Professional Education Committee at the research grant announcement.

Di Luzio pioneered the glucan theory while heading a University of Tennessee research group that was studying the make-up of the yeast cell wall.

"We are now into the second-stage development of glucan," said Di Luzio, "trying to produce a water-soluble preparation that can be safely used intravenously.

The earlier form of glucan consisted of micro-particulates.

The glucan project at Tulane is the only place in the world where the sugar-like molecule is produced, said Dr. Di Luzio. Tulane presently supplies glucan to some 20 laboratories, here and in Europe, which are presently studying the effects of glucan on viral, fungal and bacterial infections as well as in experimental cancer.

Without the ACS grant, the production facility would have closed within the year because of a lack of funds. Tulane provides the glucan to the other researchers free of charge, said Dr. Di Luzio.

"The promising thing about glucan is that it stimulates the body's natural response or defense mechanisms (macrophages)," Di Luzio said. "The defense against bacteria, virus and tumor cells was always there—glucan just activates it. In fact, one of the research groups which has been supplied with glucan, discovered that it influences bone marrow to produce even more macrophages.

"By increasing the number of macrophages, glucan may further contribute to enhancing resistance of experimental animals to bacterial and fungal infections as well as tumor cells," he said.

It has been demonstrated in a variety of laboratories that stimulated macrophages have the ability to kill cancer cells. Studies at Tulane have shown glucan inhibits a variety of experimental tumors, including certain spontaneous tumors. Additionally, by employ-
Overflow Crowd Attends

Rehab Conference Huge Success

More than 200 health field professionals from throughout the state attended the recent Conference on Rehabilitation sponsored by the ACS in New Orleans.

A dozen noted physicians comprised the symposium's faculty and moderators along with several nurses, enterostomal therapists, clergy and cured cancer patients.

Dr. Guy R. Newell, deputy director of the National Cancer Institute and a Louisiana native, was the keynote speaker during the luncheon served at the Fairmont Hotel. Dr. Newell called for increased cooperation between the ACS and NCI in order to fulfill the goals of the National Cancer Program. He pledged the governments continued support of cancer research and outlined several new approaches to solving the problems of the National Cancer Program.

Highlight of the morning session was a panel discussion of three cured cancer patients and their spouses. Representing the three areas of concentration in the day-long conference were: Reverend and Mrs. James Jackson, the mastectomye; Mr. and Mrs. Lee G. Salter, the ostomate; and Reverend and Mrs. Albertus DeLoach, the laryngectomee.

The stirring testimonials proved the very point of the conference by indicating the positive effects of rehabilitation and the successes that can be had if the medical profession is properly informed of the latest techniques.

Dr. Albert E. Gunn, medical director of the M. D. Anderson Rehabilitation Center, outlined the latest facilities available to the cancer patient through the 115-bed hospital complex in Houston.

The second annual conference on rehabilitation is in the planning stages and is scheduled sometime in the early spring.

1977 Achievements, New Objectives Outlined in Division Annual Report

"Progress" is the byword in describing the American Cancer Society's activities according to the 1977 Annual Reports for the Louisiana Division and the national organization.

Philip J. Schoen III, Louisiana Division president, said in his annual report that 1977 was "one of the most progressive and successful in the history of the Louisiana Division."

"Because of our efforts, cancer control activities in Louisiana have made remarkable progress," Schoen said.

Service and rehabilitation programs, funded by a total of $108,722, reached over 4,000 cancer patients in Louisiana. Reach-to-Recovery, service programs for ostomates and laryngectomees, drug bill assistance and loans of sickroom equipment all touched the lives of grateful patients.

Public education projects touched all areas of the state. A total of $152,746 was spent to provide smoking withdrawal clinics, science teaching kits for schools, colorectal cancer screening programs, and free PAP smear examinations for 1,500 women.

Professional education programs, on which $233,550 was spent, included oral cancer conferences, nursing conferences, physician seminars, and an enterostomal therapy program.

The Division spent about $180,000 on research, the most important tool in controlling cancer.

Legislature Passes Two Bills Effecting Cancer Management

Governor Edwin Edwards signed into law this month two legislative bills that will effect the management of cancer statistics and allow the use of marijuana by cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

Senator James Brown of Ferriday sponsored the bill calling for the Health and Human Resources Administration to begin a program of collecting cancer statistics in Louisiana. This is tantamount to a statewide tumor registry, a project the Society has been working toward for years.

Senator Brown said he wanted to find out why more than half of the parishes in Louisiana were in the highest 10 percent of lung cancer deaths rates in the nation. These same statistics sparked the Louisiana Division's epidemiological study in 1976 when the figures were first released by the National Cancer Institute. (Related story—page 3).

The second bill signed by Governor Edwards allows the medical use of marijuana by cancer patients suffering from side effects of chemotherapy. The new law only permits state hospitals to dispense the drug with a prescription that has been cleared by a physicians' review board.

Caddo-Bossier Unit Holds Oral Exams At USAF Barksdale

An oral cancer screening clinic gave check-ups to more than 200 persons from the Shreveport-area on April 30.

The clinic was co-sponsored by the American Cancer Society and the Barksdale Air Force Base. 43 military and civilian volunteers conducted the program, held during a base open-house for the annual Holiday in Dixie Festival.

Exam supplies and educational literature were provided by the ACS, and examinations were administered by 13 Air Force dental officers.

Of those persons examined, 22 were referred to their personal dentist or physician for a follow-up exam.

In addition to exams, the screening clinic showed a movie on oral cancer throughout the day.
AARP Groups Welcome Colorectal Project

Twenty chapters of the American Association of Retired Persons across the state have participated in colorectal cancer screening programs sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

More than 1,200 AARP members have taken part in these programs, which have featured lectures by physicians, film or slide presentations, and question and answer sessions.

Some of the physicians who have spoken at colorectal programs are Dr. J. J. Hearn, Leesville, Dr. Merrill O. Hines, and Dr. John E. Ray, both of Ochsner Foundation Hospital in New Orleans, and Dr. Irving Levin at Touro Infirmary.

AARP members have responded to the programs with enthusiasm, citing them as "informative" and "very well done."

Mrs. Bessie Parker, president of the Leesville AARP chapter, said her local program was a great success.

"We had a wonderful turnout at the meeting when Dr. Hearn talked to us about cancer. He answered all of our questions and even showed us a movie about colorectal cancer," Mrs. Parker said.

Mrs. Nelka Callais of New Orleans, whose AARP chapter surpassed 1977's record total of $774,866.

At least 26 Units had reached or surpassed 1977's record total in the past few months.

"Quota Buster" status by July 20, with that number expected to increase substantially.

Units designated as Quota Busters were: Ascension, Calcasieu, Claiborne, Greater Baton Rouge, East Carroll, Evangeline, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, LaSalle.

And Morehouse, Greater New Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, St. Charles, St. John, St. Landry.

Also Tensas, Terrebonne, Vernon, West Feliciana and Winn parishes.

Poitevent said the residential, small business and special gifts categories of Crusade were especially important to the campaign's success.

He said special events were also important, citing the successes of the Pointe Coupee Antigue Show, the Baton Rouge Hall of Fashion Show, the Lafayette Spring Family Fair, the Alexandria Antigue Show and the Lake Charles Fashion Show Ball. A new event, the Leesville Bike-a-thon, was also an outstanding success.

"Our impressive fund raising is the result of planning and building with volunteers throughout the state. We are as strong as our volunteers, and we have the best," said Poitevent.

We want to wipe out cancer in your lifetime

Calcasieu Parish Unit Crusade volunteers Mrs. Helen Jean (left), and Mrs. Patty Burns (right) discuss Crusade strategy with Mrs. Simon Weil, state Crusade Committee member. Thanks to their efforts and thousands of others, the Calcasieu Unit is a Quota Buster along with 25 other Units, as of July 20 when the Cancer Reporter went to press.

Hard Work, Good Planning Results in Record Crusade

The 1978 Crusade is already the most successful in the history of the Louisiana Division.

State Crusade Committee Chairman Edward B. Poitevent said that as of July 20, Crusade funds surpassed 1977's record total of $774,866.

By the end of the fiscal year on August 31, the final total will be appreciably higher when all Units have reported their figures, Poitevent said.

At least 26 Units had reached outstanding success.

HSQ Clinics Helpful To B.R. Smokers

Some 35 Baton Rougians have kicked the habit since attending the Society's Help Quit Smokmg Clinics in the past few months.

More than 20 smokers just completed an HSQ Clinic in early August. The group had started July 6 with about 40 registrants. Meeting twice a week for two hours, the group sessions help smokers realize exactly what makes them puff. Knowing "why" someone smokes seems to help that person in his effort to quit.

Mrs. Glenda Davis was the recent group's facilitator. She had quit smoking after attending the first clinic in the spring. The facilitator acts as a moderator for the group and guides the discussions toward positive channels.

The first clinic in Baton Rouge finished with about 15 participants, after starting the month long program with around 35 registrants.

The free HSQ Clinics met in the Baton Rouge General Hospital complex.

Besides the group discussions, the clinics featured movies, physician speakers and testimonials from others who have quit smoking.

"Care of the Ostomy Patient" was the main focus during the recent Nurses' Conference in Monroe. More than 100 registered nurses and allied professionals attended the day-long educational program.

Instructors for the symposium were Sheryl Feutz, R.N., enterostomal therapist at the University of Alabama hospitals, and Dorothy G. Rodrigues, R.N., enterostomal therapist with the M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute.

The program was designed to familiarize registered nurses with current concepts of ostomy care, to provide skill training in operating irrigation and permanent equipment, as well as, to alert nurses to the availability of simulation models and other instructional aids for patient education.

"Smoking Stinks," Help Quit Kit Boost Target 5 Project Activities

Two new anti-smoking projects of Target 5 kicked off in the Division during the summer. The "Smoking Stinks" campaign is aimed at the women smokers, especially the teenager; and the "Physician's Help Quit Kit" will aid physicians in urging their patients to kick the habit.

"Smoking Stinks" uses colorful buttons and postcards to relay its message and will see a lot of action in the state's schools this year. Special television spots that have a fairy tale theme have been produced for the campaign.

The Physician's Help Quit Kit is a slick-looking packet of materials that will constantly remind the physician to help his patients quit. Some 1,700 physicians in Louisiana received a flyer describing the kit and a letter from the professional education committee offering it to them. The return cards are still coming in asking for the kit, the final tally will be in the next issue.

The kit can be tailored for the pediatrician, obstetrician-gynecologist and general practitioner by supplying specially designed posters and patient literature in the kit. The physician's kit is still available from the ACS area offices.
School Kids Draw Posters For Anti-Smoking Contests

More than 1,000 Baton Rouge and New Orleans students entered their drawings in the 1978 Anti-Smoking Cartoon Contests.

In New Orleans, entries were judged in two divisions.

Lennie Irvin of J. S. Clark High finished first in the high school division, and Beth Stewart of O. Perry Walker High placed second.

Douglas Sanders of McDonough

DiLuzio ... Cont’d from pg. 1

ing glucan, it has been found possible to modify the susceptibility to bacterial infection in both normal and leukemic mice.

“We must concentrate on the development of a safe, easily administered, effective glucan preparation before we can even begin to consider clinical testing,” he continued.

The drugs presently employed for experimental immunotherapy have certain side-effects that occasionally limit their use. Unlike chemotherapy, which is the administration of drugs that directly kill cancer cells, immunotherapy is the administering of a drug that stimulates the body’s own defense mechanisms to combat the cancer. By combining chemotherapy and immunotherapy a greater inhibition of tumor growth might be achieved.

Because of its glucose base, there are no toxic end-products formed and it can be broken down by the body and used for energy just like sugar.

26 won the elementary school competition while Joann Tobin of Harold Keller Elementary took second place.

Donna McMahon, a sixth grader at Sherwood Forest Elementary School, took first place in the Baton Rouge contest. Lawrence Langlois, Jefferson Terrace sixth grade, placed second while sixth grader Vann Vickers of Parkview Elementary came in third place.

Fourth place winner of a $10 cash award was Jim Beatty a third grader at Jefferson Terrace Elementary. Rebecca Baddley of Magnolia Woods Elementary School received the fifth place $5 cash award. Rebecca is a kindergarten student.

Asbestos ... Cont’d from pg. 1

exposure to asbestos fibers and dust.

The danger is that the lung cancers do not reveal themselves for some 25-35 years after the asbestos exposure began, reported Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, statistical expert with the American Cancer Society.

Airborne asbestos fibers can be inhaled and remain in the lungs indefinitely. The tiny fibers are virtually indestructible and will eventually irritate lung tissue.

Cigarette smoking aggravates the situation. A smoker exposed to asbestos is up to 30 times more likely to get lung cancer than a non-smoker who also was exposed.

ACS Volunteers Help Interview People For Lung Cancer Study

American Cancer Society volunteers are now participating in the second phase of the epidemiological study of lung cancer rates in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Division funded Dr. Pelayo Correa’s study in 1976 to determine why the lung cancer death rates of some parishes differed dramatically. Dr. Correa is a professor of pathology at the LSU Medical Center in New Orleans.

The second phase brings the ACS volunteer into the picture as an interviewer of the 1,500 or so people who have not responded to the questionnaires mailed to them earlier. These “no returns” are evenly spread among the 10 parishes in the northern and coastal areas which include: Bienville, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine, Winn, Iberia, Lafourche, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Terrebonne.

The ACS volunteers are interviewing the randomly selected people by telephone. If this is impossible, the volunteers will contact them in person to get the questionnaire filled out.

The questionnaire traces the smoking habits of the respondents and records the family history and local environment. The environment is suspected of playing a key role in cancer rates. The marsh-like coastal parishes are one of the environments under scrutiny.