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CANCER RESEARCH FUND REACHES $15,000

SAN DIEGO, Calif.---Donations to the Battelle-Livingston Fund have reached $15,000, the University of San Diego announced this week.

The fund supports one phase of cancer research conducted by Dr. Virginia Livingston, associate professor of biology in residence at USD. More than 195 individual contributions and memorial gifts were made, including three large gifts.

Battelle Memorial Institute is identifying and determining the chemical formula of a crystalline substance isolated from malignant tissues and blood of cancer patients. The method of obtaining this crystalline factor was developed by Dr. Livingston. Large quantities of the material have been obtained by Dr. H.B. Woodruff, head of therapeutic research at Merck & Co., Inc., who donated his services and facilities to the project.

Two papers just published in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences describe the results of Dr. Livingston's work, as well as that of her collaborator, Dr. Eleanor Alexander-Jackson. One article is by the two scientists, titled "A Specific Type of Organism Cultivated from Malignancy: Bacteriology and Proposed Classification."

The second article is titled "Toxic Fraction Obtained from Tumor Isolates and Related Clinical Implications." Dr. Livingston, for this article, had as co-authors her husband, Dr. Afton Munk Livingston, Dr. Alexander Jackson, and Dr. (MORE)
Gerhard H. Wolter of San Diego State College.

Dr. Livingston has isolated a specific microorganism from malignant tissue. She has tentatively identified the microorganism as belonging to the order Actinomycetales, and she has assigned it to a new family, Progenitoraceae, and genus, Cryptocides. The organism is found rather commonly in the animal and plant world, she said, but natural immunity in man and avoidance of cancer-causing factors in the environment normally protects him against infection.

Dr. Livingston contends that when one's immunity is destroyed and the person is infected with this microorganism, these red cell parasites can be seen in the blood by direct examination under a dark field microscope.

She sees the presence of these microorganisms as potential indicators of certain types of cancer. She believes that the degree of infection and the way the microorganisms grow are indications of the degree of illness in the patient.

"The only hope in the fight against cancer is to develop methods of building up the immunity of man by effective vaccines. There needs to be a great deal more work done to see how much immunity we can induce," Dr. Livingston added. She is seeking further funding of this phase of her research.

Her research at the University of San Diego has been supported in part by the university, the Fleet, Kerr and Livingston Foundations of San Diego, and the Edith and Milton Lowenthal Foundation of New York, as well as the numerous memorial gifts and contributions.

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