Researchers Identify Genetic Factor Which Prevents Invasion of Human Blood Cells by a Malaria Parasite

NIH scientists have identified, for the first time, a genetic factor which prevents the invasion of human red blood cells by a monkey malaria parasite.

The unusual worldwide distribution of this factor—the Duffy negative red blood cell genotype—suggests that it may also be protecting certain human populations against one species of malaria.

Three Duffy genes determine the presence of Duffy a or b antigens on the surface of human red blood cells. The Duffy negative genotype—indicated by the failure of blood cells to react with antibodies to Duffy a or b antigens—is found in 90% of West Africans and 65% of Black Americans—groups known to be resistant to infection by the human malaria parasite, Plasmodium vivax. This genotype is extremely rare in racial groups susceptible to P. vivax.

Antigens Must Be Analyzed

This association between genotype and susceptibility suggests that Duffy antigens a and b may be the receptors on red blood cells which allow invasion by P. vivax. However, confirmation of this relationship must await the analysis of these antigens in Africans found to be infected with P. vivax.

Malaria is a daily threat to people 
(See GENETIC FACTOR, Page 1)
Quarantine Station in Facility on Campus To Receive Soviet Research Specimens

A series of conferences between NIH and the U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists and officials have resulted in the establishment of a quarantine station on the NIH campus to receive USSR research specimens.

Previously, USDA had banned the importing of certain research material from the Soviet Union including those specimens suspended in media containing fetal calf serum because the first shipment of that serum included 12 cell lines suspected of containing oncogenic agents.

The lines were suspended in a nutrient containing the serum.

Dr. Kenneth R. Hook, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA—the agency charged with protecting the health of U.S. livestock—declared that this medium may expose domestic animals to foot-and-mouth disease or other diseases.

USDA regulates the importing of animals and animal products and other materials that might transmit livestock disease agents, particularly diseases not found in the U.S.

The exchange of research material, scientific information, and investigators started 4 years ago through a cooperative program between the U.S. and the USSR.

Dr. Manaker Heads Station

The quarantine station on the campus is under the direction of Dr. Robert A. Manaker, chief of the Viral Biology Branch, National Cancer Institute.

The station is located in NCI’s biomedical containment facility, Bldg. 41, Suite 100.

A similar USDA-approved quarantine station has been set up at Charles Pfizer and Company, Maywood, N.J.—an NCI contractor.

Through the efforts of Dr. Earl C. Chamberlayne, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who also serves in the NIH Quarantine Permit Service Office, a series of meetings for people at NCI and USDA were initiated.

The two groups drew up a “memorandum of understanding and agreement” which established USDA-approved quarantine stations at NIH and at Charles Pfizer and Company.

USDA Supplies Antisera

The memo outlined the type of testing to be applied to the specimens and arranged for foot-and-mouth antisera, if needed, to be supplied by USDA’s Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Greenport, Long Island.

Now, when a specimen arrives at NIH from the USSR, it is assigned either to NIH or Pfizer for testing.

Part of the material is tested for mycoplasmas by FDA. Also, two types of primary cultures and two types of cell cultures are inoculated to check for cytopathogenic effect. In addition, some of the material is inoculated into embryonated chicken eggs and into mice.

If there is no cytopathogenic effect, the cell cultures are examined by electron microscope for virus.

If all of these tests are negative, the specimens can be sent to those NCI contractors approved by USDA for in vitro studies. For in vivo studies of the foreign material, or for release to the scientific community, samples must be tested for animal pathogens at Plum Island.

The scientific man is the only person who has anything new to say and who does not know how to say it.—Sir James M. Barrie
Swedish, Switzerland Science Groups Offer Research Fellowships

The Swedish Medical Research Council and the Swiss National Science Foundation will each offer in 1976 three research fellowships to qualified biomedical scientists. These fellowships will provide postdoctoral training in basic or clinical medical research.

Requirements include evidence of aptitude in basic science or clinical research, and an interest in pursuing a research career in a health sciences field.

Applicants must also show that they have been accepted by a training institution and preceptor. It is the applicant's responsibility to arrange for research training with the preceptor, and to present in the application an explicit plan for research training.

The applicant's affiliation with the preceptor is documented in the facsimilies and commitment statement which must accompany each application.

Fellow, Family Given Fare

The fellowship must be started within 10 months of the date of its award; the time is set by mutual agreement of the applicant and the institution. Fellowships will normally extend for 12 months.

The fellowships provide for reimbursement of the cost of round trip tourist air fare tickets for the Fellow and family. Health insurance is provided during the term of the fellowship.

Stipends for the Swedish Medical Research Council Fellowships range from $10,000 to $15,600 per year, depending upon the number of years of postdoctoral research experience at the time of award.

The Swiss National Science Foundation stipends range from 24,288 Swiss francs ($470) for each child.

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The applicant's affiliation with the preceptor is documented in the facsimilies and commitment statement which must accompany each application.

Research Workers, Apply!

Since the inception of these research fellowships, every year at least six U.S. scientists have been selected as fellows in the programs. The Fogarty International Center has suggested that young research workers at NIH apply as candidates for either fellowship.

Applications may be obtained from Dr. Eugene L. Walter, Jr., FIC, NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

The deadline for receiving completed applications is Jan. 1, 1976. They will be reviewed for appropriateness and scientific merit at FIC and forwarded to Sweden or Switzerland for final selection and award.

Sally Linn—Perfect Secretary—Passes CPS Exam

On Oct. 7 Mrs. Linn will receive her CPS pin, certificate, and "lamp of learning" at the Bethesda chapter's annual Executive Function.

Administrators recognize that a good secretary is worth her weight in gold—for instance NIAID's Sally Linn, CPS—Certified Professional Secretary.

Mrs. Linn, secretary to Institute Director Dr. G. Donald Whedon, recently completed the demanding requirements of the Institute for Certifying Secretaries of the National Secretaries Association.

The designation, CPS, signifies the fulfillment of a prescribed period of education, satisfactory secretarial experience, and the successful completion of a grueling 2-day comprehensive examination.

Certification is contingent upon the mastery of a curriculum including environmental relationships; business and public policy; economics and management; financial analysis and the mathematics of business; communications and decision making; as well as office procedures and precision skills.

"More and more colleges are giving equivalent credits for passing the CPS exam," Mrs. Linn noted. "Some will grant as many as 35 semester hours."

One of only 100 CPSs in Maryland and 8,813 nationwide, she shares her distinction with two other NIH employees: June Herman and Mary Elizabeth Dietterle, both of the National Heart and Lung Institute.

A member of the Bethesda Chapter of NSA since 1970, Mrs. Linn was selected its first "Secretary of the Year" in 1971.

Very active in NSA's Future Secretaries Association, she was instrumental in establishing the first FSA chapter in the Montgomery County school system at Albert Einstein High School, and personally sponsors a student chapter at Damascus High School.

She also serves as assistant FSA coordinator for the Delaware-Maryland-District of Columbia Division of NSA.

A member of the NIH Toastmasters Club, Mrs. Linn has addressed numerous area schools on the future of the secretarial profession.

"NSA believes that the principal obligation of a secretary is to function as a support to management and to increase the effectiveness of the executive," she says.

"Although we are now in an age where machines are increasingly replacing people, it is still people who run an organization."

"It takes people with a sense of responsibility to make any system work; therefore, the secretary is vitally important. And, machines don't smile, nor can you program tact or loyalty."

Fall Tennis Tournament Begins Sept. 10; Open to All Employees

The NIH Tennis Club fall tournament, which begins Wednesday, Sept. 10, is open to all Club members and NIH employees and their spouses.

Players may sign up for men's singles, women's singles, and men's, women's, or mixed doubles.

A minimum of eight players or teams must be entered for formal play in a division.

Entry forms are available at the R&W office in Bldg. 31, and must be returned to that office no later than noon, Friday, Sept. 5.

There is a $2 entry fee for each event for all non-Tennis Club members.

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Sailing Assn. to Sponsor Course By Coast Guard; Starts Sept. 4

The NIH Sailing Association has invited Flotilla 7-10 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to offer a 10-lesson course in boating skills and seamanship, starting Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m., in Bldg. 36, Room 1B-07.

Topics include legal requirements, rules of the road, charts and compasses, boat handling techniques, maritime seamanship, aids to navigation, weather, and marine communications—all emphasizing increased awareness of safe boating practices.

Registration will be held Sept. 26-27 in the USDA Patio, 14th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Classes begin Sept. 29.

Helen N. Mandich, a secretary in the Animal Resources Program, Division of Research Resources, received an employee engagement cash award from Richard L. Shafer, DRR administrative officer. Mrs. Mandich—the first DRR employee to receive this award—suggested modifying the deadlines for processing resource grant applications to allow additional time for review prior to study section meetings.

Dr. R. W. Lamont-Hovers, NIH Deputy Director, discusses with two representatives from Girl's Nation some of the biomedical research that is conducted here; that organization was holding its convention in Washington, D.C. Carol Yates (l) from Mississippi was appointed honorary Director of the Girl's Nation. South Carolina was named honorary NICHD Director for their day on campus.

USDA Graduate Program Schedules Fall Courses For Advancement or Fun

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School full schedule of classes—including evening, daytime, and correspondence courses, as well as seminars and workshops—is now available.

Call 447-4419 to request a copy.

Courses are offered in such fields as accounting, editing, management, library techniques, secretarial skills, computer science, and personnel administration.

The Graduate School's curriculum, designed especially for Federal employees, covers Government operations at beginning through advanced levels.

For those wishing to take a course just for fun, interesting possibilities include: the home greenhouse, pottery, Chinese water color painting, stamp collecting, leaded stained glass, yoga, and pressed flower pictures.

Registration will be held Sept. 20-27 in the USDA Patio, 14th and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Classes begin Sept. 29.

Dr. R. W. Lamont-Hovers, NIH Deputy Director, discusses with two representatives from Girl's Nation some of the biomedical research that is conducted here; that organization was holding its convention in Washington, D.C. Carol Yates (l) from Mississippi was appointed honorary Director of the Girl's Nation. South Carolina was named honorary NICHD Director for their day on campus.
Lungs may be able to immunize themselves against moderate doses of photochemical smog, according to respiratory studies on monkeys and rodents at the California Primate Research Center, published in the July issue of *Federation Proceedings*.

The studies reveal that definite biochemical and structural damage takes place in the lungs of monkeys and rodents exposed to 0.2 parts per million of ozone for 8 hours a day on 7 consecutive days—typical ambient levels of ozone in parts of the South Coast Los Angeles Air Basin during the summer months.

However, the lungs in primates and rodents at the Center, which is supported by the Division of Research Resources, seem to adapt and physiologically recover within 90 days.

"It is highly likely that similar damage and adaptation can occur in human beings," says Dr. Donald L. Dungworth, principal investigator.

**Permeability Affected**

Photochemical smog, consisting of oxides of nitrogen, hydrocarbons, sunlight, and other oxidants, apparently oxidizes biological tissues and temporarily impairs the permeability of membranes, the researchers found.

Using specially constructed ozone exposure chambers to simulate photochemical smog, the investigators have concluded that adaptation is most successful at 0.5 ppm levels or below. Adaptation by rodents at 0.9 ozone concentration is unsuccessful; the effects worsen rather than diminish.

The mechanism of adaptation and the factors that either prevent or cause lung lesions in monkeys and rodents may be similar to those in human beings.

California's South Coast Basin area experiences some of the highest levels of photochemical smog in the Nation.

For example, from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1974, oxidant concentration of 0.2 ppm or greater occurred in the eastern portion of the Basin on 84 of the 92 days. A concentration of 0.5 ppm was encountered on 9 of these days; 0.8 ppm is an extremely rare occurrence.

People who are affected more by severe smog—those with chronic pulmonary diseases, such as bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma—not only have pulmonary insufficiency, but their capacity for adaptation is presumably lessened.

Increased levels of vitamin E intake may be one modifying factor in combating the harmful effects of high smog levels, the scientists have found.

Deficiencies of vitamin E in rodents increased the susceptibility of the lungs to damage by ozone during the study. Further vitamin E studies with rhesus and bonnet monkeys are planned at the Center.

**Security Specialist John J. Daly Retires after 17 Years at NIH**

After more than 42 years of service in the investigative and law enforcement fields—17 of them at NIH—John J. Daly has retired as a security evaluation specialist in the Office of Protection and Safety Management, DAS.

He began his career with the government of the District of Columbia in 1933, coming to NIH in 1958 as a detective.

**Travel Payments Change For Per Diem and Mileage**

The new Travel Expenses Amendment Act of 1975, effective May 19, increases to $35 the maximum per diem allowance for travelers on Federal Government business.

The mileage reimbursement allowance for use of personal cars and planes was set at 15 cents a mile for automobiles and 22 cents a mile for aircraft.

**Annual evaluations by the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Service will determine future equity of these rates.**

** Provision has been made for automatic payment of "actual" expenses in designated "high rate" geographical areas. These areas and the maximum rate per day are:**

- **Boston**, $38; Chicago, $39; Los Angeles, $57; in New York City—Brooklyn and Queens, $53; Manhattan, Staten Island, and the Bronx, $50; San Francisco, $39; and Washington, D.C., $42.

**Montgomery County, Md. is not considered to be in the Washington, D.C. area.**

For further information concerning these and other changes in travel regulations, contact Helen Donovan, chief of the Central Travel Section, Division of Administrative Services, Bldg. 31, Room B1-C38, Ext. 63441.
NIH Scientists Construct 3-Lobed Antibody Model Illustrating Sites Which Trap Foreign Substances

By helping to define the 3-dimensional structure and chemical make-up of antibodies—proteins critical in the body's defenses against bacteria, viruses, and other foreign substances—NIH scientists are contributing to an international effort that may eventually make possible the manufacture of artificial antibodies.

Other centers active in this research include the Max Planck Institute, Munich, Germany; the Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois, and the Johns Hopkins Medical School.

In the most recent Annual Review of Biochemistry, Drs. David R. Davies and Eduardo A. Padlan of the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism, and Digestive Diseases and Dr. David M. Segal, formerly of NIAMDD and now at the National Cancer Institute, describe X-ray crystallographic evidence of remarkable similarities in the complex structure of antibodies from humans and mice.

Long and Short Chains Can Pivot

The NIH findings are consistent with previous descriptions of antibodies, the proteins produced by certain white blood cells called plasma cells.

An antibody is a 3-lobed structure containing two short and two long chains of protein and hinged so that it can pivot from a taut T-shape to a forked Y.

The NIH scientists have found that the "business ends" of the antibody in trapping foreign substances are the distant ends of the Y's crossbar and of the Y's upraised arms.

Their evidence came from a series of experiments on antibody fragments that trapped a foreign substance called phosphorylcholine in a cleft between the short and long chains at the outermost area of the T crossbar or the forked Y.

Chemically, the end portions vary from antibody to antibody in their protein building blocks or amino acids. This "hypervariability," pinpointed by Drs. T. T. Wu and Elvin Kabat at Columbia University in 1970, provides a molecular basis for binding to individual targets, or haptenes, to immobilize them.

This past March, Drs. Padlan and Davies reported that the frequency of amino acid substitutions in various antibodies paralleled their structural variability.

In the current report they emphasize the striking similarities between human and rodent antibodies, and also note differences in the depth and width of the cleft in their "business ends."

Drs. Segal, Padlan, and Davies analyzed the structure of the hapten-combining lobes of antibody by several techniques, including X-ray bombardment of crystals of antibody fragments, producing diffraction patterns which could be visualized on film.

Then heavy metal atoms which scatter X-rays were inserted into the crystals to make structural features more discernible.

By entering mathematical data on the spacing and position of the diffraction points into a computer at the Division of Computer Research and Technology, the investigators generated topographic maps (electron-density maps) of cross-sections of the hapten-binding antibody lobes.

The antibody's short or "light" chains were distinguishable from its longer, "heavy" chains. The manner in which they intertwine and fold upon one another could also be discerned.

The investigators then began construction of a 3-dimensional wire model illustrating the structure of antibody lobes that bind haptenes and comparable larger molecules called antigens. The lobes are nicknamed Fabs, for Fragments, antigen-binding.

To assure accuracy, the scientists used a half-silvered mirror, checking the Fab structure frequently against the topographic maps of the X-ray diffraction data.

One side of the mirror reflected the wire model; on the other, the topographic map was projected. Modifications in the placement or alignment of the wire sub-units representing individual amino acids were made whenever indicated.

The resulting 3-dimensional model is believed to represent in detail the basic structure of all antibodies.

Dr. Davies noted that the structural analysis would have been impossible without a source of crystallizable antibody. Most antibodies, produced by a variety of plasma cells, are heterogeneous and won't crystalize.

Dr. Michael Potter and colleagues in NCI solved this critical part of the puzzle by providing quantities of the unique, homogenous antibody produced in plasma cell tumors of inbred mice.

Application to Myeloma Studies

Fragments of these antibodies, chiefly from the mouse tumor McPC603 (McIntire plasmacytoma), are now known to have the same 3-dimensional structure as antibody fragments from patients with a related type of cancer, multiple myeloma.

This conclusion was dependent in part on information about the amino acid sequence of the McPC603 antibody which was provided by NCI's Dr. Stuart Rudikoff and Dr. Potter.

Dr. Davies and his colleagues also analyzed information on amino acid sequences of other crystallized antibodies and Fab fragments that had been published by non-NIH research teams.

Dr. Davies and associates found all of the amino acid sequences and their relative positions in the antibodies to be remarkably similar, except in regions that bind haptenes.

The findings were also consistent with amino acid analyses of seg-

(See ANTIBODY MODEL, Page 6)
A WOOLEN MONKEY MITTEN with a battery-operated heating unit is being used by the Washington Regional Primate Research Center to transport baby research monkeys in unheated cargo sections of airplanes. Originally designed for hunters and outdoor sportmen, the mitten works well to protect the infants, some born prematurely, during travel. The Center is supported by the Division of Research Resources.

ANTIBODY MODEL
(Continued from Page 5)

mements of three other mouse myeloma antibodies that had been described by Drs. Radloff and Potter in 1974.

The NIH scientists caution that the conclusions to date are drawn from only a few sources of antibody studied in crystalline form, not in the liquid state in which antibodies exist in the human body. Techniques for the analysis of soluble antibodies have not yet been developed.

Despite these limitations, the researchers consider that the recently acquired information is a major step toward greater understanding of antibodies' role in the body's immune defenses against various diseases.

The potential availability of synthetic antibodies, if they could be manufactured, would have a major impact on medical practice and the prospects for treating many human diseases.

Before-After School Program
Starts for Children of NIH'ers

A before-and-after school program for children— in grades 1 through 6—of NIH employees will be given at the Aylawn Elementary School on Oakland Avenue in Bethesda. That location is about one mile from the campus.

There will be two sessions: 7:30 to 9 a.m., and 9 to 11 a.m. The program starts Sept. 2, and runs throughout the school year including all holidays with the exception of Federal holidays.

The program, sponsored by the Parents of Preschoolers Inc., will include such activities as arts and crafts, music, field trips, and the use of the school library. Refreshments will also be provided.

For further information about the program and fees contact Virginia Burke, NIH child care coordinator, Bldg. 31, Room 2B-30, Ext. 61811.

University of Chicago Grantees Develop Virus-Induced Brain Tumor Animal Model

University of Chicago neurologists have produced a new type of virus-induced experimental brain tumor in rats, described as one of the best animal models to date of the most common human brain tumor, glioblastoma.

Like similar human brain tumors, the rat brain tumors were large, invasive, and hemorrhagic.

Kirsten murine sarcoma virus— one of the oncornaviruses or oncogenic RNA viruses that cause cancer in animals and, presumably, in human beings—was discovered by Dr. Werner H. Kirsten, professor and chairman of pathology and professor of pediatrics at the University of Chicago.

Tumor Virus Established

Sarcomas are a type of cancer. Murina, from the Latin mus, refers to mice. Ki-MSV produces cancers in rats as well as mice, and other types of cancers in addition to sarcomas.

For study purposes, the rat brain cancers induced by the Kirsten virus are superior to other animal model brain tumors. The method developed at the University of Chicago not only produces brain tumors in 100 percent of the rats, but, unlike other experimental brain tumors, they closely resemble the most common type of brain tumors.

Characteristics of the rat tumors were described in a paper before the American Association of Neuropathology by Dr. Nathan K. Blank, resident in neurology at the university.

Wai-Kwan Yung, a senior medical student, and Dr. Nicholas A. Vick, former associate professor in the department of neurology, were co-authors.

Their research was supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

This project is an example of research being done on cancer at the University of Chicago, a component of the Illinois Cancer Council, which is a consortium of institutions comprising one of the Nation's Comprehensive Cancer Centers.

Some of the features of the model rat brain tumors, as described by Dr. Blank are:

- Large hemorrhagic tumors were composed of cancerous primitive-type glial cell precursors and mature astrocytes. Glial cells are one type of nerve cells; astrocytes are a type of glial cell.

- In the rat tumors there was an abnormal proliferation of blood channels of two types:
  - Small capillaries had a particularly rapid increase, apparently cancerous, in the endothelial cells lining the blood vessels' walls. Inspection under the electron microscope showed numerous small gaps through which blood plasma proteins leaked into the brain.
  - In addition, abnormal blood-bearing channels, devoid of the normal blood vessel lining—endotheli-

Drs. Gullino and Taylor Named to Breast Cancer Task Force Posts, NCI

Dr. Alan Rabson, director of the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Biology and Diagnosis, recently announced the appointments of Dr. Pietro M. Gullino as chairman of the Breast Cancer Task Force and Dr. D. Jane Taylor as executive secretary.

The Breast Cancer Task Force was established in 1966 to coordinate research on all aspects of breast cancer. It also supports research on breast cancer. The task force is organized in four committees: experimental biology, epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment.

Dr. Gullino had been chairman of the task force's experimental biology committee. Dr. Taylor was executive secretary of that committee and, since early 1975, acting executive secretary for the task force.

Dr. Gullino joined NCI in 1957 as a visiting scientist. From 1959-1968 he was a pathologist in the Laboratory of Biochemistry. He then became head of the Tumor Physiopathology Section. In 1973 this section became the Laboratory of Pathophysiology under Dr. Gullino as chief of that laboratory.

Dr. Gullino is a graduate of the University of Turin, Italy, where he received his M.D. degree.

Dr. Taylor joined NIH in 1947 as a parasitologist in the Laboratory of Tropical Disease. Later, that laboratory became part of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Joinned NCI in 1958

From 1958-1961 she served in the Endocrinology Section of NCI's Cancer Chemotherapy National Service Center—now the drug review and development program in the Division of Cancer Treatment. During 1961-1973 she was head of the Endocrine-Related Tumor Section.

In 1975 she was appointed head of the Experimental Biology Projects Section in the Division of Cancer Biology and Diagnosis. She became chief of the Breast Cancer Program Coordinating Branch this past June.

Dr. Taylor received a B.A. degree from Rice University, an M.S. degree from Iowa State University, and her Ph.D. in biology from George Washington University.

-um—were formed by the invading astrocytes.

The University of Chicago team is now making detailed studies of the new experimental brain cancers, experimental cancers induced in rats by other means, and autopsy specimens of human brain cancers in an effort to learn what features are common to all glioblastomas and the mechanism that causes them.
NIEHS Grantees Analyze Home Repair Materials, Reveal Exposure Danger

Analysis of representative samples of spackling, patching, and taping compounds by National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences grantees shows that some contain asbestos minerals as well as other potentially harmful substances.

**Beware of Materials**

Measurements suggest that home repair or construction work involving use of such materials may result in exposure to dust at concentrations sufficient to produce disease.

Details of these findings appear in the Aug. 15 issue of Science.

Workers exposed to asbestos face a greatly increased risk of developing lung cancer, mesothelioma (a rare form of cancer), cancers of the gastrointestinal tract, and asbestosis (a scarring of the lungs).

These effects generally do not show up until 2 or 3—and sometimes even 4—decades after the first exposure to asbestos.

**Compounds Described**

Recently, Drs. A. N. Rohl, A. M. Langer, I. J. Selikoff, and W. J. Nicholson, at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, analyzed 15 samples of consumer spackling and patching compounds and 10 industrial drywall taping compounds for asbestos mineral content.

Spackling and drywall taping compounds consist of finely-grained white powders or premixed pastes. Although plaster of Paris is supposedly the major constituent, other light-colored materials—including clays, micas, quartz, talc, and ground limestone—supplement or replace the plaster in many formulations.

In addition, chrysotile asbestos is added to some products, apparently because these minute fibers act as reinforcing agents.

Analysis of the 15 consumer spackling and patching samples has shown that 5 contained appreciable amounts of chrysotile or other asbestos minerals, as did 9 of the 10 industrial products. Many contained substantial amounts of quartz, talc, and other minerals.

**Air Samples Analyzed**

Once embedded in the lungs, quartz or silica particles—like those of asbestos—may never be removed. They can produce chronic obstructive and fibrotic diseases after prolonged exposure. Talc can also produce pulmonary fibrosis.

Air samples obtained during the use of asbestos-containing spackle compounds were analyzed and frequently showed concentrations in excess of the occupational standard for asbestos exposure levels.

**Serum With Hepatitis B Antibodies Protects Against Disease But May Interfere With Natural Immunity**

The preliminary results from two recently completed clinical trials indicate that serum gamma globulin preparations rich in antibodies against hepatitis B confer effective temporary protection against the disease. However, in some subjects, these preparations may also interfere with acquiring natural immunity.

**Air Samples Analyzed**

Detectable fiber concentrations were found in adjacent rooms during mixing, for example, were found to be 7-12 times greater than the standard.

Detectable fiber concentrations were found in adjacent rooms during mixing, and fibers were still suspended in the room air at least 15 minutes after mixing had ceased.

**Dr. Piez**

(Continued from Page 1)

Ruth Metka, chief of the CC Outpatient Nursing Service since 1964, recently retired. Ms. Metka, who joined the Clinical Center in 1953 as a nurse supervisor, received a PHS commendation medal in 1972 for her skill in managing a complex and expanding nursing service.

**EHS Shows 'Fat Fighters' Film Here on Aug. 27, 28**

"The Fat Fighters" emphasizes objectivity, commitment, and improving one's self image.

One need not be overweight to profit from this 20-minute film, shown by the Employee Health Service in Wilson Hall, Bldg. 1 on Wednesday, Aug. 27, and in Conference Room D, Westwood Bldg. on Thursday, Aug. 28, at 11:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on both days.
NCI Report Comparing Survival of Black, White Cancer Patients Issued

The report on a study citing differences in survival rates from cancer between white and black patients has been released by the National Cancer Institute.

The report—"Treatment and Survival Patterns for Black and White Cancer Patients Diagnosed 1955 through 1964"—cites generally lower survival rates among Black patients as compared to white patients.

The study included 219,483 white and 21,688 Black patients whose cancers were diagnosed between 1955 and 1964 in selected hospitals in the United States.

The NCI scientists found that cancers of the digestive tract, reproductive organs, and bladder were diagnosed at a localized stage more often in the white patients than in the Black patients.

Black-white differences with respect to the extent of the disease at diagnosis were less apparent for cancers of the pancreas, lung, kidney, and brain, which are more difficult to detect at an early stage.

Cancers diagnosed when localized to the site of origin often are treated more successfully than are more advanced cancers.

100 Hospitals Included

The editors of the report, Lillian M. Axtell, Dr. Max H. Myers, and Evelyn M. Shambaugh, of NCI's End Results Section, said that the 100 hospitals in the study represented a selection of cancer treatment facilities from general hospitals to university-based urban hospitals.

Included in the study were all hospitals in Connecticut; hospitals which treat approximately one-third of cancer cases diagnosed in California; a group of hospitals in the Boston metropolitan area, and hospitals in California; a group of hospitals in the Boston metropolitan area, and hospitals.

NIH Researchers, Grantees to Present Papers At World Congress on Pain Research, Therapy

The First World Congress on Pain Research and Therapy will be held in Florence, Italy, on Sept. 5-8. About 650 scientists, physicians, and other health practitioners from many countries will attend the Congress, which is under the auspices of the newly organized International Association for the Study of Pain.

NIH will be represented at the Congress by scientists and scientist-administrators; several will present papers on their research.

NIH grantees will present 50 of the 290 scientific papers to be given at concurrent sessions during the 4-day meeting.

The National Institute of Dental Research and the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke will be represented.

Rates for Early Diagnosis

Survival rates generally were lower among the black patients even when their disease was diagnosed at a localized stage. This difference was greatest among patients with bladder cancer and among females with cancer of the body of the uterus.

However, for cancers of the kidney, survival was more favorable among Black patients than white patients.

Single copies of the report are available free of charge from the Office of Cancer Communications, NCI, Bethesda, Md. 20014. Multiple copies can be ordered for 75 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.