



## Most Urgent Need Today of Arthritis Is Researchers

The most urgent need in arthritis research today is researchers, according to the Oregon Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, member agency of the United Medford Crusade.

Besides the need for additional funds to support investigators currently studying rheumatic diseases, the Foundation pointed out that successful arthritis research depends on attracting talented young scientists to join the fight against the crippling.

Because arthritis is a complicated disorder involving the body in many ways, it calls for the combined talents of pathologists, biochemists, immunologists, geneticists and other specialists to attack it successfully.

No one person isolated from his fellow scientists can solve the mysteries of arthritis. However, teams of scientists supported by many more professional workers can. The need for more research man-

power in arthritis is pressing. Emphasizing that only a few years ago there were practically no funds for investigators of arthritic disorders, the Arthritis Foundation has devoted much of its effort to a research fellowship program.

Started soon after the Foundation was organized in 1948, the program has paid off. Four out of five of ARF supported scientists have remained in the field of arthritis, most of them in a teaching or research capacity.

Last year the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation spent more than \$650,000 on research. Yet, this figure is small, the Foundation said, considering the number of victims of arthritis and related rheumatic diseases in the United States—11,000,000 people. Next year there will be 250,000 more sufferers.

There are other problems to be solved in arthritis research if sufferers are to see a cure.

Scientists must find out a great deal more about the connective tissue, top target of arthritis. This framework of fibers holds the bones, organs and muscles of the body together. Without it, the body would literally fall apart. It also performs a vital role in the inflammation and repair of damaged tissue. It is the effect of rheumatoid arthritis on the connective tissue that produces the crippling of the disease.

Complicates Work

What complicates the investigator's work is that little is known about the connective tissue. The research scientist must start out from scratch and learn first how it behaves normally before he can discover how it reacts under rheumatic attack.

Scientists attacking one of the most crippling forms of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, have so far been denied that research tool so valuable against cancer and other diseases—studying the course of the disease in animals. Apparently, rheumatoid arthritis is an affliction of many only, the Foundation noted.

The wide spectrum of the more than 60 related rheumatic diseases which are lumped under the term arthritis, with differing symptoms and responding to different treatments, is another obstacle to arthritis research. It is likely that when cures are found, they will have to be found individually for different varieties of arthritis.

Much of what medical science has discovered so far tells us what arthritis is not. Doctors are now sure that it is not due to infected teeth, is unaffected by diet and is not directly caused by any known bacteria or germ.

A "rheumatoid factor" has been found in the blood of arthritis which does not show up in normal blood. This substance may be a result of a cause of the disease. Scientists are not sure, and much research is being devoted to finding where the "rheumatoid factor" comes from and what it does. Even now, the "rheumatoid factor" enables scientists to diagnose the disease more accurately.

Allergic Reaction

Finding the "rheumatoid factor" has also led research teams to look for an allergic reaction as the cause of rheumatoid arthritis. The possibility exists, and is being studied, that arthritis is allergic to some substance in their own blood or tissues. The "rheumatoid factor" may be an anti-body produced by such an allergic reaction.

While the problems of arthritis research loom large, there has been progress toward controlling certain of the rheumatic diseases in the last few years. Even though medical science does not know the basic cause and cure of chronic gout, for example, a sufferer can live with his disease with a minimum of discomfort thanks to the development of new drugs. The

The needs of arthritis research are great—not only in new laboratories, new clinics and new endowed hospital beds where patients can be treated and doctors can learn more about the disease, but particularly in medical manpower. Faced with a tremendous area of study about which little is known and in which the knowledge of various medical scientists must be pooled to advance successfully arthritis research needs wide support to advance to the final cure. Without public support the investigator cannot continue his work, the Foundation noted.

A portion of all funds allocated to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation by the United Medford Crusade is used to support research.

Astoria—(UPI)—Kenneth L. Hill, 42, head of Clatsop Distributing Co., Astoria, was killed Thursday in the wreck of his truck-trailer.

## Ashland Chamber Favors Measure

Ashland—A "yes" vote was recommended recently by the Ashland Chamber of Commerce board of directors for Proposition 6 on the November ballot.

The measure will provide bond funds for the construction of more dormitories, at state colleges and will cost the taxpayers nothing. All bonds issued under the plan would be paid by the students who live in the dormitories.

"Here in Ashland where we have Southern Oregon college, we should be particularly interested in this bill," Dr. William Sampson, SOC professor, told the board.

Glendale, Calif.—(UPI)—Neighbors of Richard Snook will be relieved when the 16-year-old youth finds his lost pet. It's a young boa constrictor.

Washington—(UPI)—No decision has yet been made on renewal of a contract between Oregon State College and Kasetart University in Thailand.

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RESEARCH PROGRAM — The Oregon Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, a member of the United Medford Crusade, said recently the most pressing need in arthritis research is researchers. Arthritis is

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