

Nun's Research On Clam Extract Revives Hopes For Cancer Cure



CANCER BREAKTHROUGH — A Dominican Nun's hunt for a cheaper laboratory animal for research on tumors has led to what is called one of the most promising breakthroughs in the search for a cancer cure. Sister M. Rosari Schmeer, chairman of the biology department at the College of St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus, Ohio, was the first person to discover that an extract of clams inhibited the growth of tumors in animals.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A Dominican nun's hunt for a cheaper laboratory animal for research on tumors has led to a promising breakthrough in the search for a cancer cure.

Sister M. Rosari Schmeer, chairman of the biology department at the College of St. Mary of the Springs in Columbus, Ohio, was the first person to discover that an extract of clams inhibited the growth of tumors.

So far the extract has not been tested on human cancers but it has proven to be 80 to 100 per cent effective in inhibiting tumors in animals.

The discovery might never have been made if the jolly and energetic Sister Rosari had not decided that mice, the most common laboratory animal used in cancer research, were too expensive.

Marine Animals Cheaper

Mice cost 75 cents each. Sister Rosari felt that marine animals might make her research cheaper. Her quest for an acceptable specimen led to a fellowship at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), Woods Hole, Mass.

"In 1962, I was looking for an inexpensive source of marine animal to use in growing tumors in the laboratory while at the MBL," she told UPI. "In checking through the literature, I was struck by the fact that I could not find a verified reference to a spontaneous neoplasm (cancer) in any marine invertebrate (animal without a backbone)."

She said she then checked with marine specialists at MBL. None could recall that they had seen cancer in a shellfish. She searched their heads in surprise that it had never seemed significant to them before.

At first Dr. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, Nobel Prize winner in medicine and physiology, insisted there must be cases of cancer in shellfish. But his Institute for Muscle Research at MBL, since has confirmed Sister Rosari's findings.

Chief Danger Of 'Pep Pills' Laid To Over-Stimulation Not Addiction

CHICAGO (UPI) — An exhausted driver has 200 miles more to go. He pops a couple of pep pills into his mouth. He stays awake. But the stream of thoughts running through his mind goes into high speed.

He sees an approaching car. Before he has time to react to it, his mind has leaped on to something else. There is an accident.

A school dropout has become used to taking pep pills. He doesn't have money to keep getting them. So he shoplifts a \$50 or \$40 item, sells it for \$30 or \$4 and buys enough pills to give him a lift for a few days.

"Christmas trees," "yellow jackets," "bennies" or whatever name "pep pills" go by, medical authorities and law enforcement officials agree that they are treacherous.

Temptation And Drug

Yet because they are physiologically habit-forming, like the more serious drugs of morphine and heroin, but because "pep pills" are a temptation to young people and because they put a drug on the human body that eventually will take its toll.

Billions are sold every year — on street corners, through phony prescriptions.

The American Medical Association (AMA) says pep pills are deceptive.

"You don't have more energy — you just think you do," an AMA spokesman said. "Keep taking them and you can burn yourself out."

Dr. William Kito, associate director of the AMA's department of drugs, said pep pills cause the small blood vessels to constrict. The pills tend to speed up the heart rate and to cause hyperactivity of the nervous system.

This, Kito said, is what keeps larger exemptions justified, one awake and speeds the flow.

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Bill Proposes Slash In Taxes

SALEM (UPI) — A bill that would cut state income taxes by increasing the amount of personal exemptions was submitted Tuesday by Rep. J. E. Bennett, D-Portland.

It would increase the present \$600 personal exemption to \$725 for single persons, and from \$1,200 to \$1,800 for married couples, plus \$700 instead of \$600 for each dependent.

Dependents could have an income of \$85 instead of the present \$600, and tax credits for persons over 65 would be doubled.

"Increased living costs make larger exemptions justified," Bennett said.

Governors Get First Licenses

NEW YORK (UPI) — This being the time of year when most states change automobile tags, the question often is asked: what license plate number does the governor get?

In 22 states he gets number "1," or that number plus the word "governor," as in Delaware, or plus the state seal and the word "governor," as in New Hampshire.

In the District of Columbia, "1" goes to the President of the Board of Commissioners.

Pennsylvania Governor William Scranton is permitted to use license number "1" if he chooses.

Several states distinguish their governors' cars with the number "1" plus a prefix that identifies state officials. If you see a car with Georgia plate "2-1" plus a prefix that the man in the back seat is Gov. Carl E. Sanders.

Mississippi issues plate number XI to all living former governors. The XI refers, presumably, to "ex-governor."

One of the most distinctive governor's plates is issued to Gov. Phillip H. Hoff of Vermont. A state flag and a state seal flank the number "1," and the plate is reflective — it glows 2,000 feet away in headlights at night.

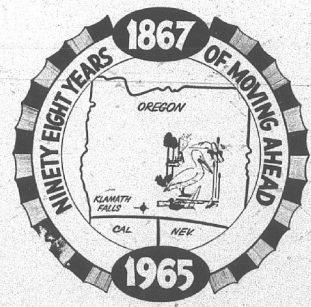
Hoff's reflective plate is similar to the "safety" tags used on all cars in 16 states and the District of Columbia. But in a state like Vermont where a 11 vehicles carry ordinary painted plates, the governor's reflective tags stand out at a right angle snow on a field of grass.

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