

The Village Courier



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CTF CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Fermilab's Cancer Therapy Facility is one year old this month.

The first volunteer, a tongue cancer victim, was treated Sept. 7, 1976. Since then, a significant number of patients have completed treatment; many pilot studies have been concluded; and a second federal grant for operating expenses has been received.

CTF researchers seek the answer to the question: "Are neutrons better than X-rays in treating some types of cancer?" From first-year results, the answer seems to be a qualified "yes," according to Lionel Cohen, M.D., CTF head and head of the radiation therapy department at Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital. He reports these patient statistics:

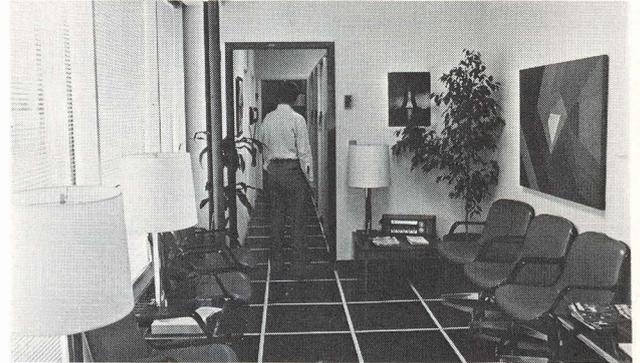
- .120 patients referred by cooperating physicians.
- .96 patients entered the CTF program.
- .85 patients completed treatment.
- .18 patients were considered unsuitable for treatment.
- .11 patients withdrew before completing treatment.

Most patients are 40 to 60 years old. A 22-year-old man was the youngest patient treated; the oldest, a man 87. Men outnumber women 3 to 1. Because the CTF is an out-patient-only facility, most patients are Chicago area/Illinois residents. However, patients have come from Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.

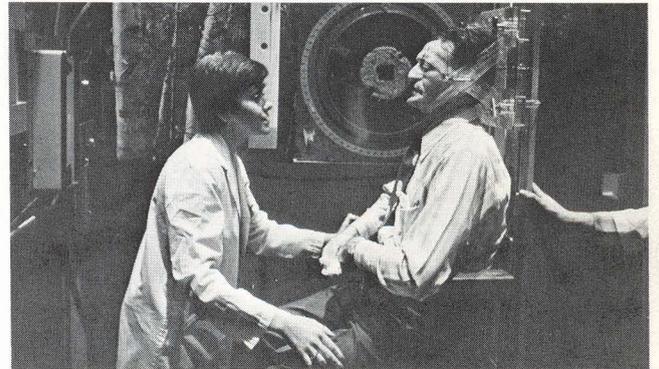
During pilot studies, the tumor sites treated included: head and neck; brain; pancreas; bone; abdomen; breast; skin; and chest. The treatment types may be classified into neutrons only; neutron "boost" after standard radiation; and full neutron irradiation after recurrence following conventional treatment.

"Initial observations suggest," Dr. Cohen said, "that the neutron beam as the sole method of treatment was highly effective in controlling tumors."

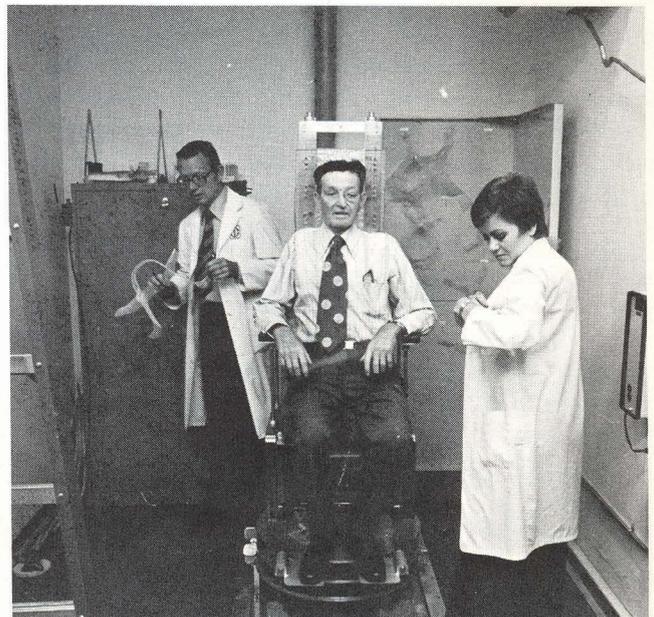
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...CTF Reception Area: attractive and functional...



...B. Wyman, technologist, prepares patient for treatment...



...F. Hendrickson, M.D., and B. Wyman assist patient after treatment...

CTF FIRST ANNIVERSARY (Cont.)

He added that he was gratified with rapid improvement observed in most irradiated tumors. Treatment reactions have been generally mild; only one patient showed a significant skin reaction which is now healing well.

Patients given a neutron "boost" after conventional radiation have reacted similarly to patients receiving radiation only, Dr. Cohen said. From surgical findings, the neutron boost/X-ray combination seems effective he also noted.

As expected, the results in a group conventionally radiated and then treated with a second full course of neutrons when the tumor reappeared were less encouraging.

Except in selected cases, pilot studies are completed. National protocols--strict, descriptions for performing specified medical studies--were activated at CTF in June, 1977. National participation means that patient treatment results from Fermilab will be combined with comparable data being compiled at the other national treatment centers: M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, Tex. and the Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.

National protocol participation is coordinated by the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG), Philadelphia, Pa., under contract with NCI.

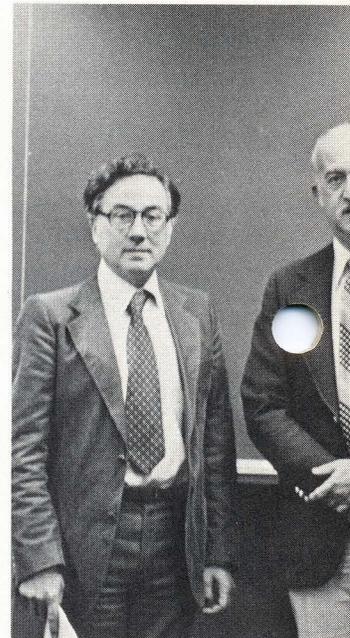
CTF will add Saturday treatments to the Monday-Tuesday-Friday schedule as protocol patients require them. Expanded therapy hours will increase patient processing--from about 12 persons daily to 25-30 persons--and will comply with a four-day treatment week required for participation in national protocols.

Most patients are irradiated while immobilized in a fixture designed here. The fixture is hydraulically lowered to the neutron beam line, a floor below the reception area. The fixture allows treating patients sitting, standing or, in some cases, lying down.

Dr. Cohen also announced receipt of a three-year \$2,186,953 federal grant for operating expenses 1977-80. The award is the second since 1975 from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare through the National Cancer Institute, one of 11 national health research institutes.



...A recent CTF users' meeting featured (L-R): S. Stefani, M.D.; R. Garces, M.D.; W. Brand, M.D.; M. Awschalom; L. Cohen, M.D.; and F. Henderson, M.D. ...



...From cont
J. Spelberg
...R. C
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...Some CTF staff members pose for a photo between patients. L-R are: K. Gehl, J. Jeurink, I. Rosenberg, D. Spelbring, J. Maxwell, A. Jones, and M. Awschalom. (Not shown: D. Young, J. Ovadia.) ...

The grant will support: (1) Improved clinical treatment facilities; (2) Physics dosimetric studies; (3) Radiobiologic studies; and (4) Patient treatment. The award came after a March site visit by a 12-person independent review team commissioned by NCI.

"This new support," Dr. Cohen said, "should enable us to expand the clinical operations from three to four days a week. Also, it will allow appointment of necessary additional staff, improvement of treatment facilities and expansion of the radiobiological research participation."

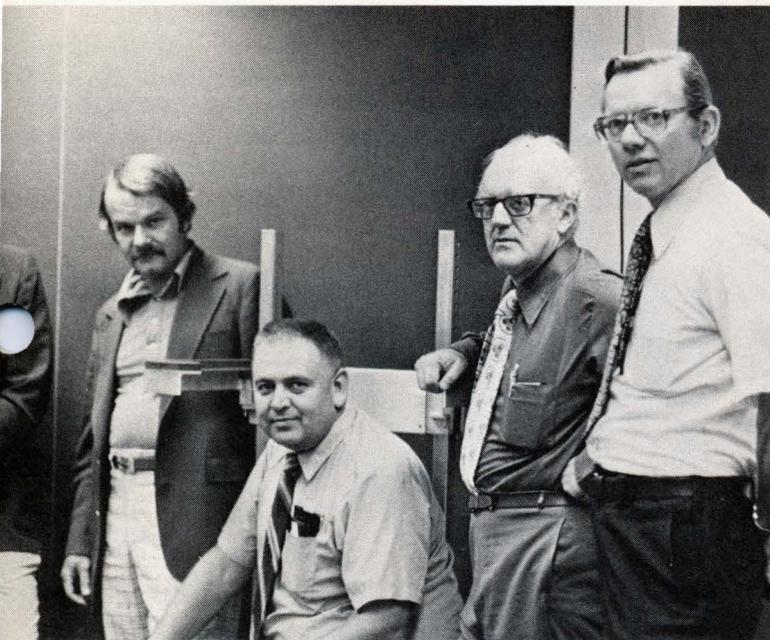
NCI's initial grant in 1975 totaled about \$800,000 for operating expenses.

One of CTF's main achievements was treatment of the first patient six months ahead of schedule. In addition to the patients treated, another CTF accomplishment has been sociological: it proved radiotherapists from many medical institutions could cooperate in a single large experiment.

Of about 40 referring physicians, 25 have volunteered services in the clinic. Volunteers have supervised treatment, examined patients, noted responses and dictated clinical notes. "This has been an invaluable aid," Dr. Cohen said, adding that it made possible for him and Dr. Frank Hendrickson, CTF deputy head for medical affairs, to continue the operation at maximum capacity. Users have formed a group that meets irregularly to discuss and develop research protocols.

Fermilab non-medical volunteers included: Jordan Finstein, computer department; Duane Voy, radiation physics; Danny Spelbring, Northwestern University graduate student; Blair Voyvodic, graduate student, McGill University; Gae Beasley, former X-ray technologist; and Allan Haline, Bucknell University undergraduate.

CTF staff members are: Lionel Cohen, M.D., CTF department head and a radiation oncologist; Frank Hendrickson, deputy head for medical affairs; Miguel Awschalom, physicist, deputy department head; Don Young, physicist, associate department head; Ivna Rosenberg, medical physicist; Jacques Ovadia, medical physicist; Jerry Jeurink, radiation therapy technologist; Joanne Mansell, R.N./P.A., protocol nurse; Kathy Gehl, administrative assistant; and Alan Jones, operations technologist.

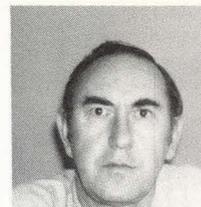


in CTF room are: k, D. r, I. Rosen- A. Jones... z, M.D.(L) wschalom at RTOG recently...



IN MEMORIAM

Donald Wastel
March 4, 1926-September 16, 1978



Don Wastel, a Fermilab employee since 1969, died Friday. An instrument maker in Technical Services' machine shop, Don had been on sick leave since May. He was among original employees starting work Jan. 6, 1969, when the shop was opened in a small rented building in Downers Grove. Don worked on the first high voltage column and main ring magnet prototypes. His supervisor, Bill Jones, commented, "Don was an excellent machinist and a fine employee. We will all miss him." Funeral services were held Monday.

FINAL WEEKEND FOR FERMILAB POOL

One of the last vestiges of summer, swimming at the Fermilab pool, is about to give way to fall. Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting, will be final swimming days of the season. Lifeguards will be on duty from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. both days.

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LECTURE TICKETS REMINDER

Fermilab people are reminded to pick up tickets for the Oct. 7 Science and Humanities Lecture Series program. Dr. Robert Sinsheimer, Chancellor, University of California-Santa Cruz will speak on "Genetic Engineering -- On our Own" at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are now being claimed. Stop by the Guest Office (CL-1W) or call Ext. 3440.

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CERAMICS DISPLAY OPENS

Eighteen pieces of ceramic art by Kitaoji Rosanjin (1883-1959), a Japanese artist, went on display in the Central Laboratory second floor lounge last week. The display, on loan from The Art Institute of Chicago, will run through Oct. 14.

Rosanjin worked enthusiastically in various art forms and produced many remarkable works of high quality. He was extraordinarily talented in ceramics as well as calligraphy, calligraphic woodcarving, painting and lacquer.

Born in Kyoto, he took up painting as a youth. While studying painting, he discovered that he had a talent for calligraphy and devoted himself to it.

In 1925, Rosanjin opened a restaurant in Alaska. He served authentic dishes on traditional ceramic vessels that he designed and produced from his own kiln. His vessels were made in a wide range of techniques adapted from beautiful Chinese ceramics of the T'ang and Ming Dynasty and from Japanese ceramics.

Since his death, there has been a rapid appreciation for his ceramics; his works are much sought after for inclusion in both private and public collections in Japan and in the United States.

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SUNDAY N. Y. TIMES FOR SALE

Non-subscribers to the N. Y. Times are reminded that Sunday editions are available in the Public Information Office, CL-1W. A limited number of copies are on sale from Monday morning at \$1.25 to the earliest customers.

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...J. Roberts (L) and J. Poces view pottery display...