

October 16, 1961

Air Mail

F. Boyland, D.Sc.
Professor of Biochemistry
Chester Beatty Research Institute
Institute of Cancer Research
Royal Cancer Hospital
Fulham Road
London, S.W.3.
ENGLAND

Dear Doctor Boyland:

First, let me say that I and my associates will be very much interested in having a detailed report of your experimental work on rats, whereby lead (in some form) induced carcinoma of the kidney. While I have seen other accounts of similar results, I must confess that I have been skeptical of them, if for no other reason than that lead has appeared to lack any such capacity for other common laboratory animals or for man.

Moreover, lead has been employed in the treatment of cancer (Blair Bell et al), unsuccessfully I believe, despite a few suggestively beneficial effects, *3/4 choice for this purpose* partly because lead compounds are believed to be especially injurious to embryonic tissues, and partly because of statistics (not very convincing), that indicate that workmen in lead trades have an unusually low incidence of cancer.

I believe I shall have to say that there is little in way of dependable evidence on one side or the other of this question, but the lack of evidence has, I think, some weight, but probably not overmuch.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK:ss

KE 0019899