



Director of Industrial Hygiene

Department of Health, Ottawa

April 20, 1949.

Dr. E. Smith,
Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd.,
Asbestos, Que.

Re: Cancer and the asbestos
factor.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find copy of letter sent to
you which is self-explanatory.

Best personal regards,

JCS

P. R. Smith



COPY

April 10, 1955.

Mr. Jean Robourin, I.C.
St. John, Que.

Re: Cancer and the Asbestos
Factor.

Dear Sirs

During the past weeks, I had the opportunity to discuss on many occasions this important matter with Mr. Bernard in Australia, Dr. Smith in Montreal and with the Governors of the Thorford Industrial Clinic, Inc. at a recent meeting.

Following this last meeting, I was asked to give you my comments as to the way in which to carry out one of the requests of the Association.

1. Necessity of a study ~~to be carried out by the Association~~ Cancer in the Asbestos Industry.

(a) At the moment there is a great deal of publicity in the medical literature and at the medical meetings on a possible relationship between Cancer of the lung and the Asbestos Factor.

(b) Although many outstanding research men as Hinkshaw, President of the American Lung Association, Bernard and others do not want to recognize such relationship for lack of conclusive evidence, they all wish a thorough study to support or refute this theory.

(c) Although any kind of conclusions or deductions are scarcely possible, as there is a lack of a record of the lung among the asbestos workers in Thorford since 1925.

~~It is therefore suggested that a study be carried out by the Association with the best ability and a study of the records of the workers in the industry, conclusions and finally accepted by all concerned, the local, governmental, employee and employer bodies.~~

(cont'd)

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(a) The Larnage Laboratory has certainly a universal reputation on diseases of the lungs especially related to occupational factors. Moreover we have received in the past the best friendly, profitable and generous help from the staff of this laboratory and now I must add that Mr. Larnage has manifested a special interest in doing a such study and in Australia when this matter of a relationship between cancer of the lung and asbestosis was mentioned he regretted deeply that such study has not been already realized, seeing the great importance in "ever is right" case I'm sure right in the presence of those who were spreading the theory.

(b) The Memorial Cancer Hospital of New York has also a world wide reputation on the study of cancer, and they have performed work on occupational cancer mostly for the Standard Oil Company, cancer of the skin. I have in hand a confidential copy of the report on the study made at the Standard Oil Company which shows that this Institute has all the facilities for accomplishing first class work at least on cancer of the skin.

In closing I want to repeat that without any doubt the Larnage Laboratory has all the necessary personnel and equipment to conduct an excellent study, but remembering that the results must be thoroughly accepted by the governments and labor bodies, I would suggest that this possible study be a collaborative effort, in which, if possible, both institutes could participate. Moreover, many and many similar studies have been done in the past on a collaborative basis, which increases markedly the authority and the value of the conclusions adding the prestige of both organizations.

Yours very truly,

PC/JS

Paul Carter, M.D.