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MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
of The City University of New York
FIFTH AVENUE AND 100TH STREET • NEW YORK, N.Y. 10029



Department of Community Medicine

November 10, 1971

Dr. Gavin Hildick-Smith
Director of Clinical Research
Johnson and Johnson
Research Division
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Hildick-Smith:

I have in front of me a letter dated August 9, 1971 addressed to Dr. Selikoff indicating your wish to receive some information on the Tenovus sample that you so kindly lent to us. I have been putting off answering this letter not because I am a feisty devil so much as the fact that I lost the letter on my desk! I called your office last week. You were out and I feel that I would do as well to report to you in writing.

In respect to the Tenovus samples that were sent to us, we made the following observations. We did find some grains that resembled talc with the usual electron diffraction pattern consistent for a sheet silicate structure. Again, we have no definitive means of identifying the particle on the basis of its electron diffraction pattern in that many sheet silicates yield a similar array of spots. We assume that the particles were talc or, rather, were consistent with talc. We also got a few surprises in that we observed some chrysotile asbestos to be present in the tissue as well. We have been kicking this observation around the Laboratory for a while and we might consider a publication somewhere -- just a short note indicating that we have observed these materials present in the tissues.

We have also analyzed one of your talc samples in some detail. In addition to the normal platy talc present, we have observed many "fibrous talcs" as well. This fibrous talc material closely resembles normal platy talc but appears with a greater length aspect. Its terminations are prism terminations and

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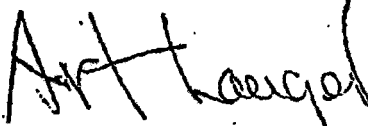
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and the general characteristics under the electron microscope do indeed resemble normal talc. Electron diffraction on ~~these grains again yields~~ these grains again yields a talc pattern which is a very well-defined hexagonal array of spots. We also observed trace amounts of chrysotile asbestos only when the talc was sonified and markedly dispersed. The amounts of chrysotile are relatively small, occurring in amounts, we estimate, at less than .01%. The J & J baby talc is of quite high quality and as a matter of fact, in relation to the number of samples we have examined thus far, it is the "purest".

We just thought that we would pass this information along to you as our colleagues in scientific research and you may use it as you wish. Again, many thanks for giving us the samples and allowing us to look them over. Incidentally, I am very interested in obtaining some of your material called sodium sesquicarbonate which has been bandied about as possessing a structure that is not unlike chrysotile. Do you think you could have one of your research boys send me some of this?

Again, many thanks, and if you need any further information, please don't hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,



Arthur M. Langer
Associate Professor
Mineralogy

AML:lkf

7. Langer
Letter

EXHIBIT

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