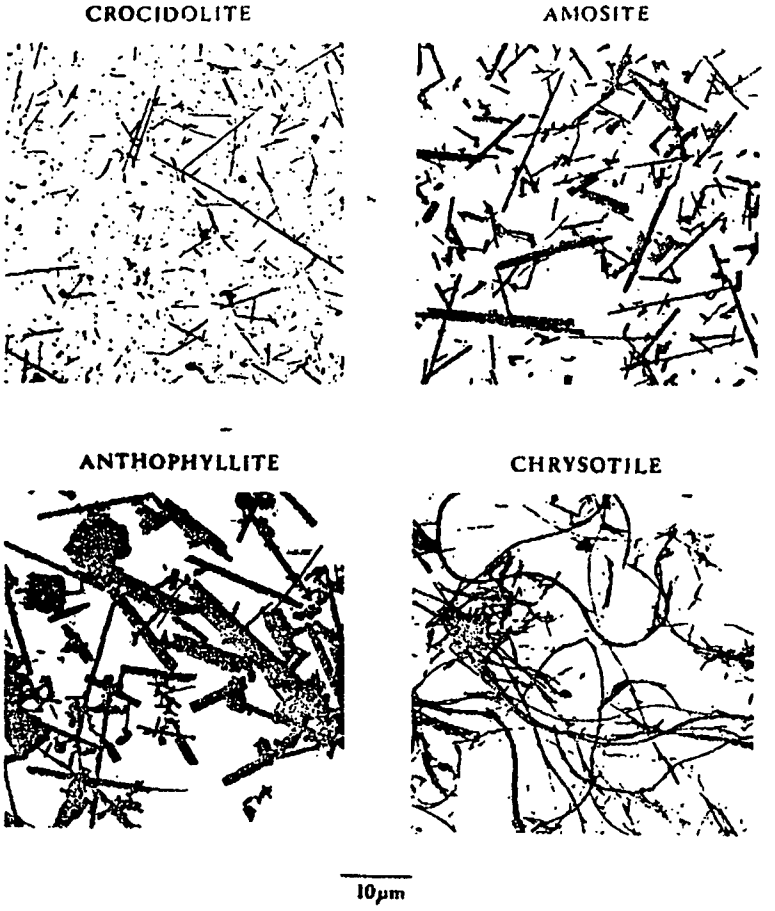


Fig. 6. [From Timbrell, V.: Physical factors as, etiologic mechanisms, in *Biological Effects of Asbestos*, IARC Scientific Publication No. 8, Lyon, 1973, p. 295; reprinted by permission of publisher.] Electron micrographs of crocidolite (north-western Cape Province), amosite (Transvaal), anthophyllite (Finland), chrysotile (Canada) at the same magnification (× 1700). Features to note are (*1*) the rectilinear shape of the amphibole fibers compared with the curved and twisted morphology of chrysotile fibers; (*2*) the order of the diameters of the amphibole fibers, suggested by numerous electron micrographic examinations of these fibers from the 3 geographical areas, crocidolite < amosite < anthophyllite; (*3*) the longitudinal fragmentation of the chrysotile fibers and the small diameter (about 0.03 μm) of the ultimate fibrils.

to exposure should always be borne in mind, and the patient in whom disease develops after a relatively short period (for example, less than 25 years) must be taken as an indicator of unsatisfactory past and/or present working conditions, requiring forceful corrective action. The same attitude should be taken toward the person in whom fibrosis is believed to be present in its early stages or development, either on clinical, radiologic, or functional evidence. Any claim that this is not so because the "environmental levels" to which the person was exposed were "safe" is incorrect; levels were clearly not "safe" for the particular person concerned, either because of greater-than-suspected dose, or greater-than-average susceptibility.

It must be emphasized that the clinician's job is not only to recognize the case of asbestos-related disease, but also to see that it is brought to the attention of the appropriate executive authority (in many areas, the Workmen's Compensation Committee, which informs the company concerned). This recognition and referral has social implications at 2 levels. For the person, the implication is appropriate compensation, society's fumbling best to make up for his