FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

DATE: 1933 Apr 11

DOC#: ML133

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Dr. Lanza Letter RE Suppressed Publications at Saranac Lab

April 11, 1933

Mr. Donald E. Cummings, Assistant Director,
The Saranac Laboratory for the Study of Tuberculosis,
7 Church Street,
Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Dear Don:

I found your letter of April 8 on my return from Pittsburgh. I am very much afraid that I have not much of comfort to you. I talked it over with Sayers and he feels very strongly that if you and the Saranac Laboratory are going to stay in the consulting business with respect to the mining industry, it will not be possible for you to publish these papers, at least at the present time. I myself somewhat reluctantly feel inclined to agree with him.

The mining companies in Michigan, with whom you have been in contact, have interests in the Picher District. If these papers are published against the wishes of the Tri-State Association, you will undoubtedly promptly feel the repercussion elsewhere. As I said before, I feel the whole situation is unfortunate but it is one of those things that can not be helped. I think it is important that the Saranac Laboratory establish and maintain contact with industrial firms because it is going to be increasingly necessary for industry to have available a thoroughly scientific and impersonal establishment with which it can do business. At the same time, we must recognize that the present disturbed condition of affairs, with the extraordinary multiplicity of damage suits for silicosis is not only very disturbing but necessitates that all of us who are in contact with industrial firms proceed with a great deal of caution. I understand that shyster lawyers are beginning to stir things up in Picher and Miami, which makes the situation with respect to the Tri-State Association still more difficult. On the other hand, I feel fairly certain that when the industrial situation starts to clear up, you will be able to bring your reports up to date and have them published. In that respect, as I pointed out, you are in the same position as we are with the investigations we have made in the asbestos industry.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Lanza, M.D.