Dr. Zapp: I think there is an opinion that bronchogenic cancer and asbestosis occur after a long occupational exposure. The mesothelioma however, is thought to occur after a number of years following perhaps even a single, or what you might call a single, very intense exposure to fibers. For example, the State of Pennsylvania picked up mesothelioma in a man who was running a cheese factory in Lancaster County. They wondered if this could possibly be related in any way with an asbestos exposure since mesothelioma is a very rare thing in the general population. It turned out that this man had bought the factory and they had a big boiler that was insulated with asbestos. The insulation was old and deteriorating, so this chap decided to tear it off and then have it recovered. So, he did the stripping of the old insulation himself and this was a very dry, by this time, baked out dusty type of asbestos. His description was that this was a very dusty operation. This was the only asbestos exposure on record that this particular gentleman had. He turned up with mesothelioma. While you can't prove it, the Pennsylvania State Health Department was of the opinion that this probably was the result of intense exposure to this type of asbestos during the single operation of stripping the insulation from the boiler. It took, I don't know how many days to do it, but that was the only period of exposure that they could record for this particular individual. Then there is a latent period before the cancer shows up.

RJH/neh
7/5/72