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OSPEDALI DI BOLOGNA
Fondo Cooperazione Regionale

SPECIALE POLICLINICO S. ORSOLA

TITOLO DI ONCOLOGIA «FELICE ADDARNI»

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Bologna, 13/8/'74

di N.

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Mr. JOHN H. STENDER

Assistant Secretary

SHA

U.S. Department of Labor

WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Stender,

I know that OSHA has kept the record on VC open until August 23, and I am of course aware of the great importance of the issue. I am conscious also of the paucity of the data, and since it has been acknowledged that our results are the most advanced to date, I feel that I should make more detailed information about our experiments available to you.

I would therefore ask you to have put on record, along with my telegram dated 21/6/'74 in answer to your cabled request of 14/6/'74, this letter and the enclosed report which consists essentially of the tables which I have prepared for scientific publication in the near future. I have added only some technical details regarding method and material, and a few scientific comments on matters which emerge from the data.

We know very well how important the issue of VC is in itself at the present time, but we are also convinced that it provides us - most likely for the first time - with an opportunity of assessing the value of predictive testing (which is in my view the major means which we possess of preventing cancer) and the extent to which data obtained from animals may be extrapolated to human beings.

Our knowledge in this respect has already been enhanced by the studies on VC carcinogenicity, but we still have to learn much more from a careful scientific approach to information which will become available as time goes on, since I feel that at the present time it is a difficult task to determine what extent data on animals may be extrapolated to man.

For this reason, I am sure that you will appreciate that my emphasis throughout has been on data rather than comments.

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Needless to say, any visit from scientific representatives of OSHA in order to see our laboratories and obtain more details of our work would be most welcome. In the meantime, to avoid any possible misunderstanding, I should like to state officially that, although a number of visitors from your Country have passed through our laboratories in recent weeks, their visits were not of course such as to permit them either to furnish information on our experiments nor to make the necessary evaluation of our work.

In addition, I am of course always available to provide any further information that is required.

Looking forward to meeting you in the near future,

My best regards and wishes,

Sincerely yours,


(Prof. Cesare Maltoni)

CM/cn