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4 brought against the Olin Corporation.

5 This is a continuation of hearings that
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8 September 15, then to October 26, and th n t
9 November 4, then to November 16, and to this
10 date.

11 MR. PROUT: I believe, Your Honor, the
12 first November date was November 14, rather
13 than November 4 --

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Did I say 4?

15 MR. PROUT: Yes, Your Honor.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: 14. Present today,
17 attorneys are Attorney Robert Carter for th
18 claimant, and for the respondent, William
19 Prout from Wiggin & Dana and Barry David ff
20 the Olin Corporation.

21 We left off on -- I believe Mr. Pr ut was
22 cross-examining or present --

23 MR. PROUT: Presenting evidence, Your
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22 cross-examining or present --

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24 Honor.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: I think you began to

1 present evidence on -- Do y u want to state
2 for the record where you were when we left off
3 on November 16?

4 MR. PROUT: Yes, Your Honor. We wer in
5 the midst of presenting respondent's case. We
6 had completed the testimony of Dr. Heying and
7 Dr. Meigs, and we would like to begin today
8 with the testimony of doctor Darryl Bigner --

9 THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

10 MR. PROUT: Dr. Bigner, will you take the
11 stand, please?

12 D A R R Y L B I G N E R, called as a witness,
13 having been first duly sworn by the Commissioner,
14 was examined and testified as follows:

15 THE COMMISSIONER: You may be seated.
16 Your full name and address, please.

17 THE WITNESS: I'm Darryl Bigner, and I
18 live at 210 Longwood Drive in Chapel Hill,
19 North Carolina.

20 MR. PROUT: May I proceed, Your Honor?

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Please.

22 MR. PROUT: Thank you.

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION.

24 BY MR. PROUT:

25 Q. Dr. Bigner, you're a neuropathologist, are y u

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1 not?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Let me show you a document which appears to be
4 your curriculum vitae and ask you if the information set
5 forth therein fairly and accurately sets forth your
6 professional training and experience, professional
7 activities and so forth?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. PROUT: Your Honor, I would like to
10 mark that as the next respondent's exhibit
11 which I believe is 13.

12 MR. CARTER: Let me just look at it. I
13 me inquire the purpose of the offer.

14 MR. PROUT: The purpose of the offer is
15 to provide -- to qualify Dr. Bigner as an
16 expert witness. I offer it in this fashion
17 the interest of saving time rather than ask
18 the usual series of questions about each
19 of the categories set forth in the CV.

20 MR. CARTER: I'll stipulate that he's
21 expert and that he's qualified as a
22 neuropathologist, but I would object to the
23 offer. I stipulate that he's qualified as
24 neuropathologist is enough.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: If he agrees to h

1 qualifications, I think that's sufficient.

2 MR. PROUT: Your Honor is going to be
3 faced with serious issues of credibility in
4 connection with testimony, only because
5 there's testimony that's directly contrary t
6 testimony presented by other witnesses, and I
7 think part of the task of assessing that is to
8 have the information as to what the individual
9 has done.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: You have a right to
11 present it.

12 MR. PROUT: All right, Your Hon r. I'll
13 proceed in that fashion.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: As long as th re's
15 objection to it --

16 MR. CARTER: He's qualified.

17 BY MR. PROUT:

18 Q. Dr. Bigner, would you outline briefly for us
19 your current professional and academic activities
20 insofar as they relate to the study of brain tumors?

21 A. I'm a professor of pathology and
22 neuropathology at Duke University Medical Center, and I
23 have my laboratories in the comprehensive cancer center
24 there.

25 My entire professional career and all f my

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1 publicati ns have been devoted to the study of malignant
2 brain tumors, particularly glioblastoma multiforme.

3 Q. Dr. Bigner, let me interrupt you for a s cond
4 and perhaps we can shortcut this a little bit. H w long
5 has your professional career been?

6 A. The last 15 to 20 years. In this regard, I
7 received my medical degree in 1965 --

8 THE COMMISSIONER: From where?

9 THE WITNESS: From Duke.

10 Q. Would you continue, please, with your current
11 professional and academic activities as they relate to
12 brain tumors?

13 A. Yes. I'm -- I spend the majority of my time
14 in research on this problem, as I stated, in the cancer
15 center, I'm in charge of the containment facility
16 designed and built where we test hazardous chemicals and
17 viruses in cancer research, and I'm leader of the
18 nervous system neoplasia team in our cancer center
19 leading a group of some 30-odd assistant associate
20 professors and technicians in research on this pr blem.

21 In addition, I've just received the first
22 major program project grant for research on brain tumors
23 that the National Institute of Neurological Diseases has
24 awarded, which is a three-institution study with leven
25 projects involving a large group of investigators there.

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1 I participate -- There are only a small group
2 of people in the world who have spent the majority of
3 their time working on this problem, and we worked
4 together world-wide in planning a series of conferences,
5 and I participated on the advisory boards in the one
6 that was held in California last fall, a recent one in
7 Switzerland last month.

8 We are planning two others with an English
9 group this summer and a group this fall from the
10 National Toxicology Program, and then finally another
11 major international meeting we have every five years or
12 so in London this fall.

13 Q. One additional area that I'd like you to
14 comment on or to testify concerning is your current
15 editorial board and reviewing activities, again limiting
16 it insofar as it pertains to brain tumors.

17 A. Okay. I'm --

18 MR. CARTER: Objection. It's irrelevant.

19 MR. PROUT: Your Honor, I claim it.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: I'll allow it for the
21 weight.

22 A. I'm --

23 THE COMMISSIONER: You may take an
24 exception.

25 A. I'm a member of seven editorial boards,

1 editorial boards in cancer, neuroscience journals and
2 have the responsibility for editing largely relative to
3 all aspects of brain tumor research there.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: What's the leading
5 neuropathology?

6 THE WITNESS: There's a Journal of the
7 Association of American Neuropathologists,
8 which is a journal of neuropathology and
9 experimental neurology, and I've just been
10 elected to the editorial board of that. It
11 doesn't show on this copy of the CV.

12 The other international, European journal
13 is Acta Neuropathologica, and I'm a member of
14 the editorial board of that journal. Their
15 articles in this field, of course, are
16 published in the general cancer literature and
17 clinical neurology and neurosurgery journals
18 as well.

19 Q. You stated, Dr. Bigner, that all of your
20 articles and publications were related to the subject of
21 brain tumors in one aspect or another. Approximately
22 how many have there been?

23 A. About 130, 140.

24 Q. Now, you were present when Dr. Krigman
25 testified in connection with this case?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Dr. Krigman testified that he had r viewed
3 certain categories of materials, and what I would like
4 to do is -- ask you is to recite what those categories
5 were and ask you if you've reviewed the same materials
6 in the interest of saving time.

7 MR. CARTER: Let me just voir dire with
8 respect to the scope of this testimony. We've
9 had for the respondent one neuropath 1 gist
10 testify from the neuropathological point of
11 view, and I'd like to, if we can, limit
12 by agreement, just to prevent redundant
13 testimony or merely cumulative testimony, the
14 scope of this witness' evidence.

15 MR. PROUT: We intend to do that, Your
16 Honor, not go over areas that I asked
17 previous witnesses about, but it's not a
18 Proper subject for voir dire.

19 What counsel is trying to do is
20 cross-examine at this point.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: I think it's a well
22 taken point, and we won't name the point, we
23 won't call it voir dire, but how long does
24 your presentation -- your direct-examination
25 do you plan on taking?

1 MR. PROUT: Twenty minutes, perhaps, Your Honor,
2 Honor, thirty minutes at most.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Will it be new
4 material or --

5 MR. PROUT: It will relate specifically
6 to the matter of the animal studies, and as
7 Your Honor may recall, Dr. Krigman did not
8 testify concerning that on direct-examination,
9 in the face of counsel's objection, Dr. Meigs
10 certainly didn't testify concerning that, nor
11 did Dr. Heying.

12 MR. CARTER: Dr. Krigman did testify
13 about animal studies, pages 550 to 554. He
14 said he reviewed the animal studies himself
15 and found nothing useful in the animal studies
16 with respect to the causation in this case.

17 MR. PROUT: Now, anything regarding
18 animal studies is claimed to be redundant.

19 MR. CARTER: I claimed that at the end of
20 the last hearing. More -- I would ask that
21 more testimony by neuropathologists on animal
22 studies not be allowed because there was
23 testimony on that before.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Why don't you ask the
25 direct question, if that's agreeable, and the

1 we can move on? I think the point is well
2 taken that we should accelerate where we can.

3 MR. PROUT: Clearly, Your Honor, and I
4 don't intend to ask him anything that's been
5 asked before by me.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: I want to give you
7 every opportunity. We're already in Volume
8 6.

9 MR. PROUT: Or 7.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: And for new material
11 or for -- I think you can lead your witness if
12 there's no objection.

13 MR. CARTER: Let me see how much leading
14 he does.

15 THE COMMISSIONER: You may take an
16 objection, but let's have counsel speed it
17 where we can.

18 MR. PROUT: Yes, Your Honor.

19 BY MR. PROUT:

20 Q. The question that I intend to ask you, Dr.
21 Bigner, is whether you have reviewed in connection with
22 this case, these claims, the following categories of
23 materials: The medical records of Dr. Ardis and Mr.
24 Ozolins, employment data concerning these individuals,
25 medical literature dealing with the subject of brain

1 tumors, the pathology slides of each of these
2 individuals and of Dr. Karabinos, the exhibits which
3 were marked, I believe, Respondents Exhibits 2 through
4 8, which were the materials prepared under the direction
5 of Dr. Heying, the transcript of these proceedings and
6 the exhibits that -- the documents that have gone into
7 evidence.

8 Did you review each of those categories of
9 materials?

10 A. Yes, I reviewed all those things.

11 Q. Did you review any additional materials in
12 connection with the formulation of your opinions in this
13 case again by category?

14 A. Well, as I think I've indicated, I spent all
15 of my time working on brain tumors, so I review data,
16 literature, and my entire professional time is devoted
17 toward considering current state of the art in this
18 area.

19 Q. Have you -- Approximately how many
20 experimentally-induced animal tumors have you personally
21 examined?

22 A. Well over 10,000.

23 MR. CARTER: Objection, without
24 clarification. Is he talking about chemical
25 carcinogenesis?

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1 Q. Of those more than 10,000, can y u tell us
2 approximately how many of those were chemically-induced
3 brain tumors?

4 A. At least a third of them were
5 chemically-induced. There were virally and spontaneous
6 brain tumors in the group as well.

7 Q. Have you also reviewed series of spontaneous
8 animal brain tumors?

9 A. Yes. I'm currently working with a group fr m
10 the National Toxicology Program to try to establish a
11 meaningful classification for spontaneous rat brain
12 tumors that are seen in the controlled animals f r all
13 the chemical carcinogen studies in that program.

14 Q. One additional preliminary question, Dr.
15 Bigner: Have you also had opportunity to examine human
16 brain tumors?

17 A. Yes. I had seven years of training in
18 neurology and neurosurgery and neuropathology, and in
19 our research work we used human tumors extensively in
20 transplanting athymic mice, and we review in my
21 laboratory, receive tissue from every malignant brain
22 tumor removed at Duke or the University of N rth
23 Carolina and have for the last ten years.

24 Q. There has been testimony previously in this
25 course of these proceedings regarding the animal

1 studies, the experimental work, and their relevance to
2 the question of chemical causation of human brain tumors
3 generally and specifically their relevance to the
4 question of causation with respect to the cases of Dr.
5 Ardis and Mr. Ozolins.

6 Are there certain principles of carcinogenesis
7 which are established by the animal studies which you
8 believe bear upon each of those issues?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Would you tell us what those principles are,
11 please?

12 A. Well, the first general principle is that
13 brain tumors are very difficult to induce
14 experimentally, and historically, it has taken us a long
15 time to develop the tools to induce them and study them
16 in the laboratory.

17 There are a number of factors that I think may
18 be relevant to the human brain tumors that we found over
19 the years.

20 For example, the species that we test is very
21 important in determining the ability to induce the
22 tumors or not. It is much more easy to induce brain
23 tumors experimentally in mice and rats than it is in
24 larger animals, and particularly in primates.

25 The genetic susceptibility is very important

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1 even within the species that we work on.

2 For example, there are several strains of
3 rats, particularly the BD-9 strain and the Fisher 344
4 strain who differ markedly in their genetic
5 susceptibility to chemical carcinogens.

6 The age of the animals is extremely important.
7 In general, we find that young animals or neonatal
8 animals, animals during fetal time are more susceptible
9 to all of the agents than are adult animals.

10 It's quite difficult to induce brain tumors in
11 adult animals. The dose of the agents used is
12 important.

13 In general, the best results that we obtain
14 are with high -- very high doses of agents or large
15 cumulative doses of agents.

16 There's a special property of the brain that
17 we think makes it resistant to this tumor in deduction
18 called the blood brain barrier, and with many of the
19 inducing agents, it's necessary to use highly artificial
20 means of introducing the cancer-causing agent into the
21 brain to make it work.

22 For example, with the polycyclic hydrocarbons,
23 it's necessary to take a pellet about the size of your
24 little fingernail and permanently implant it in the
25 brain of an animal to make it induce cancer.

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1 If you give that -- those agents systemically,
2 they don't work. The same is true with many of th
3 viruses with which we induce brain tumors in the lab.
4 If you give them intravenously, they don't work. You
5 have to inject it directly into the brain in a very high
6 dose to make it work.

7 Most of the chemicals that work systemically,
8 if you give them by intravenous injection, hav t have
9 special properties to work, such as high degrees f
10 lipid solubility so that they can cross the bl od brain
11 barrier.

12 So there are many special features that we
13 think, or I think are protective of the brain that
14 account for its relative resistance to tumor in
15 deduction.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: You spoke of inducin
17 brain cancer by injecting viruses directly
18 into the brain tissue.

19 THE WITNESS: Yes.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Are those viruses --
21 obviously they're identifiable?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, yes.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: What success has
24 There been in -- from that concluding what
25 viruses might produce brain cancer in huma.

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1 THE WITNESS: Well, the majority of my
2 first ten years of work was really addressed
3 at the question of whether viruses were
4 involved in human brain tumors, and although
5 we fully published very little of that,
6 because the data was all negative, we have not
7 been able to show that retro viruses, which
8 are in the class that are most successful in
9 terms of the experimental brain tumor
10 induction, are associated at all with human
11 brain tumors.

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me. I just
13 want to be sure I understand. You can induce
14 a viral-induced in mice?

15 THE WITNESS: Mice, rats, dogs, cats,
16 many different species.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: And you have not been
18 able to duplicate this in a human?

19 THE WITNESS: Well, we can't do the human
20 experiments --

21 THE COMMISSIONER: I wanted to see if you
22 were listening.

23 THE WITNESS: You can do it in primates
24 with the virus --

25 THE COMMISSIONER: You can?

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. It's n t
2 glioblastoma.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: I didn't talk about
4 the instant one. I was just interested in
5 your answer.

6 So, what is your deduction on that from
7 the animal studies on viruses not dealing with
8 the instant cancer but in general?

9 THE WITNESS: Well, we either -- either
10 viruses are not associated with human brain
11 tumors or we haven't found the way to look f r
12 them and the right ones. You know, we haven't
13 found many viruses in many human cancers.

14 The recent success with the human T-cell
15 leukemia virus is the only success in finding
16 that class of viruses associated with any
17 human cancer, and it took some very sp cial
18 tools to do that with.

19 So, I think recently, there is another
20 class of viruses that most of us haven't
21 worked with that extensively that there's som
22 clues it may be associated with human brain
23 tumors. These are called the papova
24 viruses, and they have recently been
25 shown to induce glioblastoma like tum r in

1 monkeys, and the fingerprints of that virus in
2 the meeting I was just at in Switzerland, a
3 very respected virology group in West Germany
4 were reported to be involved in them, and I
5 think that needs to be explored, but the data
6 is all negative in toto now relative to virus
7 involvement.

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Are there more cases
9 of glioblastomas being diagnosed with the
10 level of knowledge increasing?

11 THE WITNESS: The incidence overall is
12 increasing somewhat, but I think the only real
13 influence of CAT-scanning and these sort of
14 things is how some of these patients would die
15 in nursing homes in the past, and be signed
16 out on death certificates as having strokes;
17 whereas, we would have some warning now with
18 CAT scan, and non-invasive kinds of diagnostic
19 methods to suspect it, but there's been a
20 real major shift in the diagnoses or
21 incidence.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Go ahead.

23 MR. PROUT: Thank you.

24 BY MR. PROUT:

25 Q. Dr. Bigner, in response to my question

1 directed to principles of carcinogenesis, you listed a
2 number of factors, and I won't reiterate them at this
3 point.

4 Will you tell us in your opinion what the
5 significance of those factors is when applied to the
6 question of causation with respect to the claims of Dr.
7 Ardis and Mr. Ozolins in these proceedings?

8 A. Well, the fundamental thing that I believe,
9 and most of us as cancer biologists believe, is that the
10 principles are the same in animals as pertain to man,
11 and we use those principles as one of the factors to
12 look at cases of -- and causation of human cancer, and
13 these were the questions that led me, when I was first
14 approached by Olin, to think about what was going on
15 here.

16 The immediate questions that went through my
17 mind were to determine if there had been a -- common
18 agents worked with, and any evidence for exposure to
19 agents that would have the properties that we know work
20 in animal systems, such as lipid solubility, and the
21 ability to cause -- cross the blood brain barrier, these
22 sorts of things, and particularly if there was any
23 evidence of any prolonged and high dose contact that had
24 taken place.

25 Q. When you applied these factors, what

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1 conclusion did y u come to with respect to the issue f
2 causation as to these two claims?

3 MR. CARTER: Objection without
4 clarification. Is he testifying just from the
5 review of the materials that you suggested and
6 his animal work?

7 MR. PROUT: Yes.

8 MR. CARTER: Is this based also, then,
9 upon his review of human epidemiol gical
10 studies?

11 MR. PROUT: No, at this point the only
12 thing I'm asking him about is --

13 Q. -- are the conclusions which you draw from the
14 principles of carcinogenesis which emerge from the
15 animal studies. Did you understand my question t be
16 directed to that?

17 A. Yes. No, based on applying those -- Well,
18 you're asking me -- Let me just elaborate.

19 As a physician and a pathologist and as a
20 cancer biologist, I am trained and do look at the total
21 situation. I have to evaluate all of the evidence that
22 I have, and I would not make a limited conclusion basec
23 on one set of data, or apply one narrow set of
24 principles to reach a conclusion.

25 Q. All right. Well, let me ask you, then, what

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1 additional materials are you relying upon with respect
2 to the conclusions that you draw from the animal studies
3 and these principles of carcinogenesis that emerge from
4 the animal studies?

5 A. Putting all of those principles together with
6 a comparison of the morphology of the tumors in these
7 particular cases, which I personally reviewed in great
8 detail and had some of my other colleagues review as
9 well, together with the epidemiological data, I don't
10 believe that either is there any evidence or conclusion
11 I can put together about the cause of the brain tumors
12 in these three cases or -- nor could I find anything to
13 pointed me towards in my research, which was my real
14 interest here.

15 I have not come away enriched or knowing any
16 better how to approach the problem from the study of
17 these three cases, what chemicals to look at or what
18 mechanisms to consider for cause of glioblastoma
19 multiforme.

20 Q. You indicated in your response just now, Dr
21 Bigner, that one of the factors that you took into
22 account and found significant was the morphology of the
23 tissue samples that you reviewed.

24 What significance did you draw from the review
25 of the tissue samples?

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1 A. Well, first of all, our institution has been
2 the pathology referee institution for all the treatment
3 trials on glioblastoma that are conducted throughout the
4 country, and we've come to recognize that diagnostic
5 errors are not infrequent, even from other pathologists,
6 about the tissues.

7 So my first instinct was to be absolutely sure
8 in my own mind by re-examination that we were dealing
9 with glioblastoma here and we were -- all three cases
10 are what I would describe as garden variety glioblastoma
11 multiforme cases with all of the more logical hallmarks
12 of the disease.

13 This is a well-described disease, Verchow
14 found the same findings and described them in German in
15 1865. It hasn't changed for we will over one hundred
16 years.

17 So this told me that there was nothing
18 morphologically, or for that matter clinically or
19 otherwise, distinctive or unusual about these cases.

20 The possible importance of this is viewed in
21 light really of some questions we're asking in the
22 laboratory, and that is I think it's fundamentally
23 important to be able to associate cause in individual
24 cases of human cancer where we can, and we're studying
25 this question of is there morphological distinctiveness

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1 r lative to inducing agents.

2 For example, will ethyl nitrosoureas-induc d
3 brain tumors or acrylonitrile brain tumors be
4 distinguishable from glioblastoma multiforme, and
5 although a formal and full-length study has not been
6 completed, my opinion, based on studies of spontaneous
7 tumors in a large number of these induced tumors now, is
8 that a significant number of them can be distinguished;
9 that is, that the different inducing agents perhaps as
10 much as 60 to 80 percent of the time do have
11 morphologically distinctive features and can be
12 separated from one another on that basis.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: Could you separate any
14 of these three cases or were they identical --

15 THE WITNESS: Well --

16 THE COMMISSIONER: -- in the tissue? You
17 said a garden variety, and I'm not sure I
18 comprehend your garden variety and mine.

19 THE WITNESS: The World Health
20 Organization has published straightforward
21 criteria that we look for in establishing the
22 diagnoses of glioblastoma multiforme in these
23 cases possessed -- each of them possessed all
24 of those criteria.

25 Now, there's some differences among the

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1 individual ones. One group of cells would be
2 in one tumor that were not in another, and
3 that sort of thing, but pseudopallisading
4 necrosis in endothelial proliferation,
5 multiple cellular forms, and no plastic cells
6 were present in all three of these cases, and
7 not only did I -- I showed these blindly and
8 independently to three or four of my other
9 colleagues who were among the most respected
10 tumor pathologists. We all independently came
11 up with the same thing.

12 THE COMMISSIONER: In lay language, would
13 it be fair to say that substantially they were
14 very similar, had the components of very
15 similar brain tissue, leading to a diagnosis
16 of glioblastoma multiforme?

17 THE WITNESS: Yes. They'd be like all
18 other eight to ten thousand glioblastomas that
19 occur in the U.S. every year. Nothing unusual
20 to set them apart, which is what I was looking
21 for.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: When you said you're
23 the treatment center -- Duke is the treatment
24 center for all glioblastoma cases, I was
25 curious as to who designates that. Is that

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1 the NIH r who designates you?

2 THE WITNESS: Let me clarify that. W 're
3 not the treatment center. There are two --
4 There's a large multi-institutional trial
5 sponsored by NIH that 15 institutions
6 participate in.

7 Duke is the diagnostic center, the
8 pathology diagnostic center. All the slides
9 from all 15 institutions from patients that
10 are entered into that cooperative tr atment
11 trial are sent to Duke.

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Aren't they sent to
13 the other 14, too?

14 THE WITNESS: No. Well, they go to their
15 hospital pathologist, but then he sends the
16 slides to us, and we make the official study
17 Diagnosis so that there's a common set of
18 criteria applied for study purposes there.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: That's of all brain
20 tumors?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, all malignant. This
22 trial is limited to malignant brain tumors.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: Now, for malignant
24 lung tumors, are there other centers
25 designated?

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1 THE WITNESS: There are other trials of
2 that nature where there would be an other
3 pathology center designated for that.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: You're designated for
5 the broad category of all malignant brain
6 tumors?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, for that study.
8 That's the National Brain Tumor Study Group.
9 We also -- Or one of our pathologists reviews
10 for the Southwestern Oncology Study Group. My
11 program project grant has the same
12 pathologists.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: I understand that.
14 But you said for all throughout the whole
15 country in --

16 THE WITNESS: Only for the Brain Tumor
17 Study Group. That's the largest and oldest
18 treatment trials.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: That's comprised
20 of 14 --

21 THE WITNESS: Fourteen to fifteen
22 institutions. The center of it is at
23 Memorial Sloan-Kettering in New York, Dr.
24 Shapiro was the principal investigator, but
25 Duke was one of the founding members.

1 BY MR. PROUT:

2 Q. Dr. Bigner, in your testimony a few moments
3 ago in talking about the principles of carcinogenesis,
4 you indicated that the particular substance that was
5 involved in a particular animal experiment was
6 significant with respect to one's ability to induce
7 brain tumors in animals.

8 Did you look at the question in connection
9 with these cases of whether the tumor -- whether the
10 chemicals which have been successfully used in the
11 experimental studies were chemicals to which either of
12 these individuals had a significant exposure?

13 A. Yes. That was my initial question in
14 discussing this case, was that Olin compile -- take the
15 known list of published human carcinogens first by the
16 international agencies and then give me a contact list
17 from each of these workers, paying particular attention
18 to any agents in that list that might have ever induced
19 experimental brain tumors in animals.

20 Q. What did you find?

21 A. We found, first of all, that there was no
22 common agent of any kind in the carcinogenic group, and
23 secondly, the one chemical that I am presently
24 investigating in some detail as an experimental brain
25 tumor agent, acrylonitrile or vinyl cyanide had been an

1 agent that had been used by -- I don't remember the
2 details. You may want to give me the list to look at of
3 actually the amounts that -- Yes.

4 Both Ardis and Ozolins worked with
5 acrylonitrile, but on questioning this, and th
6 conditions and the amounts, I am presently running a
7 study with acrylonitrile where the brain tumors in that
8 study are induced only with large doses, 500 parts per
9 million or one hundred parts per million of
10 acrylonitrile in the drinking water through a continuous
11 lifetime exposure of the animals.

12 Acrylonitrile is cyanide, it's vinyl cyanide,
13 and any organic chemist knows, or should know, that
14 vinyl cyanide or cyanide is an acute toxic agent and
15 would handle it with care, and the amounts and
16 conditions under which this was handled did not convince
17 me that any significant contact with the agents, any
18 significant doses occurred.

19 MR. PROUT: May I have a moment, Your
20 Honor?

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

22 (Pause in the proceedings.)

23 BY MR. PROUT:

24 Q. Dr. Bigner, on approximately how many
25 occasions did these two individuals work with that

1 particular substance you've identified as vinyl cyanide
2 or acrylonitrile?

3 A. It looks like there are about ten listings
4 here for Ardis and four or five for Ozolins.

5 Q. All right. And do the notations there
6 indicate that the amounts were on the order of grams?

7 A. Yes. These are all gram quantities of the
8 agent.

9 Q. And that the substances were used under closed
10 system conditions?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR. CARTER: Objection. I think that's
13 without any foundation except for this
14 characterization of the list. I don't think
15 there's any review of the actual evidence
16 which is in -- --

17 THE COMMISSIONER: I'll sustain the
18 objection.

19 MR. PROUT: I'll withdraw the question,
20 Your Honor, but that is part of something
21 that's already in evidence. It's redundant,
22 if nothing else. I'll withdraw the question.

23 BY MR. PROUT:

24 Q. This is part of one of the Exhibits 2 through
25 8 that were introduced through Dr. Heying.

1 Dr. Bigner, do you have an opinion that you
2 can state with reasonable medical probability with
3 respect to the issue of whether the glioblastoma
4 multiforme of each of these individuals, that is, Dr.
5 Ardis and Mr. Ozolins, arose out of or were caused by
6 exposure to chemicals in the course of their employment
7 at Olin Corporation?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What is that opinion?

10 A. Well, I've stated part of my opinion as we've
11 gone through this. My opinion is that it is not
12 possible to determine with all of the evidence and
13 evaluation of this situation what the cause of these
14 individuals' glioblastoma multiforme is.

15 I can find nothing that sets them apart from
16 all of the others that occur at a significant rate,
17 significant numbers throughout the country, and I don't
18 think we can establish the cause of the glioblastomas in
19 these individuals.

20 Q. All right. Is it your opinion -- Do you
21 have -- Withdrawn.

22 In your opinion, is it reasonably probable
23 that their cancers were caused by exposure to chemicals
24 in the course of their employment at Olin?

25 A. No, I find no reason to involve or implicate

1 their employment r work at Olin any more than anything
2 else that may have happened in their lives. I don't
3 know what the cause is.

4 MR. PROUT: I have no further questions
5 for Dr. Bigner at this time, Your Honor.

6 CROSS EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. CARTER:

8 Q. Dr. Bigner --

9 THE COMMISSIONER: You may.

10 Q. You did diagnose all of the glioblastomas
11 multiformes, the three?

12 A. Yes. One of the tumors, that is a variant of
13 glioblastoma multiforme, which is gliosarcoma, but
14 they're within World Health Organization criteria as
15 glioblastomas.

16 Q. Now, you said it was important to you that
17 there was nothing distinctive or unusual about these
18 pathological slides that you reviewed; that is, that
19 these glioblastomas looked like every other glioblastoma
20 multiforme, more or less. Is that correct?

21 A. Yes. I said I looked at them particularly
22 trying to determine if there was anything special or
23 distinctive about them and could find no such
24 distinctiveness.

25 Q. Does a lung cancer that's caused by asbestos

1 look any different from lung cancer caused solely by
2 cigarettes?

3 A. I'm a neuropathologist, not a lung
4 pathologist.

5 Q. You were trained as a pathologist, weren't
6 you?

7 A. No. I received one year of training in
8 anatomic pathology, and I haven't looked at any lung
9 tumors in ten years, and I'd rather not comment on the
10 morphology of lung tumors.

11 Q. So, based upon your analysis, would you expect
12 that a lung tumor from -- lung cancer from asbestos
13 would look different from a lung cancer caused by
14 another substance, arising spontaneously?

15 MR. PROUT: Objection, Your Honor --

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Let the doctor answer.

17 MR. CARTER: He may know the answer.

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

19 A. I -- You know, I'd rather not comment about
20 lung tumors. I haven't studied lung tumors --

21 THE COMMISSIONER: If you know, Doctor.

22 Q. If you know, answer it.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: If you don't know,
24 just say "I don't know."

25 THE WITNESS: I don't know.

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1 THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

2 THE WITNESS: He's asking me to
3 speculate.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Don't speculate. Just
5 say "I don't know."

6 BY MR. CARTER:

7 Q. Do you know anything about whether bladder
8 cancers caused by aniline dyes look any different from
9 bladder cancers arising in the background population?

10 A. No, I don't know anything about bladder
11 cancer, either.

12 Q. Would it surprise you that they all look
13 exactly the same?

14 A. I don't know --

15 MR. PROUT: Objection. If they looked
16 exactly the same? Objection, Your Honor. I
17 think there's no foundation for the question.

18 Q. Do you know whether leukemia caused by benzene
19 looks on the pathological slide any different from
20 leukemia caused by something else or arising
21 spontaneously?

22 A. No, I don't know about benzene leukemias,
23 either.

24 Q. Do you know about any other end organ tumors
25 caused by chemicals except for brain tumors or central

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1 nervous system tumors?

2 MR. PROUT: Are you limiting that to the
3 specific issue of morphological appearance?
4 Otherwise your question is too broad.

5 MR. CARTER: I'll limit it.

6 Q. Do you know any tumor -- any human tumor that
7 has a different appearance when caused by a chemical
8 exposure from that tumor, a garden variety of that
9 tumor?

10 A. I can tell you the tumor that I think would be
11 best to study in that regard.

12 Q. No, that's not what I'm asking. I'm asking if
13 you know of anywhere the appearance is different.

14 A. I don't think it's been studied well enough to
15 draw much conclusion --

16 THE COMMISSIONER: What hasn't been
17 studied?

18 THE WITNESS: There are only a handful of
19 human tumors where we know the cause, and y u
20 have to have the background tumor, on that's
21 been around for a long time, and then known
22 specific causes to do the comparison.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: What are the handful?

24 THE WITNESS: The angiosarcoma of the
25 liver would be the ideal one to study where we

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1 have known about the tumor and where we know
2 about vinyl chloride and where we had the old
3 data from Thorotress, for example, s we've
4 got the basic same kind of tumor so that the
5 study could be carried out properly.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: What is the other --
7 What others do you know about? You said
8 there's a handful.

9 THE WITNESS: Of human tumors?

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

11 THE WITNESS: Well, the asbestos-related
12 mesotheliomas, the problem there is that tumor
13 hasn't been recognized clearly for 20 or 30
14 years, and it may very well be that all
15 mesotheliomas are associated with asbestos, so
16 you don't have the background to compare with
17 it in those cases.

18 The bladder carcinomas would be another
19 one where there are at least a handful
20 of human cases where the study could b
21 carried out critically.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: What's the causation
23 there that's been established for the bladder
24 cancer?

25 THE WITNESS: There are some of the dyes

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1 and some of the dye industry, particularly in
2 old -- in the older coal, tar industry
3 exposures.

4 The leukemia situation is opening up now
5 where with HTLB and our very sensitive
6 markers, where we can precisely classify
7 leukemia, where you could do those sorts of
8 studies, and I think they need to be done.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: What is pointing as to
10 causative agents there? What are the
11 causative agents leading to the leukemias?

12 THE WITNESS: The human T-cell leukemia
13 virus now has enabled us to -- They know that
14 the virus is associated with those tumor cells
15 and we have antibodies to the virus proteins
16 and can very precisely identify and separate
17 that kind of leukemia relative to its cause
18 and look at it in background of all the other
19 leukemias where we don't know the cause.

20 BY MR. CARTER:

21 Q. Isn't it true that for -- that for
22 chemically-induced tumors, as far as you know, that the
23 morphology really is no help at all in determining
24 whether or not those are chemically-induced?

25 A. No, I just testified to the contrary. I think

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1 that I can distinguish acrylonitrile-induced brain
2 tumors across the room. They're very distinctive, they
3 stand out.

4 Q. In rats and mice?

5 A. Yes, in rats, not in mice. It's not been
6 studied in mice.

7 Q. Now, do other people working in your area feel
8 that the animal glioblastomas that are
9 chemically-induced have different morphological
10 appearances from spontaneously-appearing glioblastomas?

11 A. Let me be very precise about how to answer
12 that. When I'm -- The statements I've made are
13 referring to malignant glioblastomas. There are not
14 very many animal glioblastomas, and you -- if you limit
15 your comparison to animal, experimentally-induced
16 glioblastomas in animals, you're only talking about a
17 very narrow spectrum of cases.

18 Q. So that if Harry Zimmerman -- Who is Harry
19 Zimmerman?

20 A. A very well-regarded friend and colleague in
21 this business who is the neuropathologist at Montefiore
22 at Einstein in New York.

23 Q. Would you disagree with him that over 40
24 percent of experimental gliomas produced with
25 carcinogens are glioblastoma multiformes?

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1 A. Well, could I see what you're quoting from,
2 please?

3 Q. This is Dr. Zimmerman's 1969 Annals of the New
4 York Academy.

5 A. What Dr. Zimmerman was talking about were some
6 experiments he did in the early 1940's that he -- It's
7 a cumulative data, and what he's referring to there are
8 these highly artificial inductions with pellets of metal
9 cholanthrene that he put in the brain of rats and mice,
10 and, yes, he was speaking about his own work in that
11 very limited set of experiments.

12 Q. He found that they resembled human
13 glioblastoma multiformes almost identically, didn't he?

14 A. Yes. With metal cholanthrene pellets put in
15 the brain of rats and mice, he was not talking from 1984
16 about all the agents in the broader scope of agents
17 we've studied since, and that paper was published in
18 1969, I think.

19 Q. He also cites dibenzothiazine and
20 dibenzopyridine, so he was at least reviewing
21 experimental glioblastoma multiformes produced by those
22 other chemicals?

23 A. Which are all polycyclic hydrocarbons which
24 all have to be put into the brain in big pellets to
25 induce the tumors and which is regarded now as a highly

1 artificial model and induction method.

2 Q. Now, do you believe that any human
3 glioblastomas are induced by chemicals?

4 A. I believe we do not know the cause of human
5 glioblastoma multiforme in any case except for the
6 handful of cases associated with radiation exposures.

7 I think it is possible and likely that the
8 same thing will turn out with glioblastoma multiforme as
9 it has -- as it is with other things. A small number
10 may be caused by viruses, a small number of other
11 cancers we know are caused by chemicals. The majority
12 of all human cancer we don't have the foggiest idea
13 about the cause and now.

14 Q. You've written with Dr. Swenberg; isn't that
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You would disagree with the statement stated
18 by Dr. Swenberg, "It's been estimated that 80 to 90
19 percent of all human cancers" --

20 MR. PROUT: May I have a clarification
21 Are you representing that he's a co-author?

22 THE COMMISSIONER: He said if he agreed
23 with Dr. Swenberg.

24 Q. If you disagree with Dr. Swenberg's citation

25 A. Dr. Swenberg said -- He's quoting. He said

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1 "It has been estimated by some people." He's not saying
2 "I believe that," or have evidence that 80 percent of
3 human cancers are used by chemicals.

4 And, you know, let's put that in its proper
5 perspective. The cancer research has waves of
6 enthusiasm. Fifteen years ago, we thought everything
7 was caused by viruses.

8 Now there's a big trend toward environmental
9 agents, and it will cause a great deal of study, but we
10 don't know, we cannot prove, and I don't think anyone in
11 the scientific community believes that we know the cause
12 of most human cancers, especially in individual cases.

13 Q. So, do you still feel that it's -- there's a
14 strong possibility that viruses cause some human brain
15 cancer, or have you abandoned that?

16 A. I think it's a possibility that needs to be
17 explored. I'm not personally exploring it any longer.

18 Q. Now, in some human -- Sorry. Strike that.

19 In some experimental glioblastomas or animal
20 brain cancer, which has been induced by chemical
21 exposure, virus particles are released, aren't they?

22 A. Yes. Dr. Zimmerman reported that and there
23 are other instances in which that's been reported.

24 Q. Now, has there been further work on that
25 mechanism?

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1 A. Yes. There's been a great deal of work on
2 that mechanism. What we believe most of those viruses
3 are, are indigenous retro viruses whose replication or
4 multiplication is stimulated or turned on by the
5 chemical or the tumor, and that in most cases, that
6 doesn't have anything to do with causing the
7 transformation of the malignant process.

8 Q. But these virus particles or virus-like
9 particles that are released from a brain tumor that is
10 clearly caused by chemicals, when those are transplanted
11 into another animal's brain, those virus particles
12 themselves will induce cancer; isn't that true?

13 A. There is one, I believe, Dr. Zimmerman's work,
14 he published one or two -- unconfirmed by other
15 people -- situations in which those virus particles were
16 shown to induce sarcomas, a different kind of tumor,
17 when they were injected into other hosts.

18 THE COMMISSIONER: It wasn't the same as
19 glioblastoma?

20 THE WITNESS: No, it wasn't the same kind
21 of tumor at all.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: Isn't it true in human
23 cancer that one kind of cancer often produce
24 or the body produces another type of cancer?
25 I don't know how to put it into technical

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1 terms, but if you have one cancer, you often
2 find a host and then you get another type of
3 cell cancer.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes. Again, you can take
5 one of the brain tumor-causing chemicals. If
6 you want to look at that ethyl nitrosoureas
7 causes glioblastomas in rats, if you give it
8 to gerbils, it causes melanomas, and if you
9 give it to mice, it causes lung tumors.

10 So, the organ site is often not
11 predictive.

12 BY MR. CARTER:

13 Q. In connection with that same truth of
14 different organ sites, did you investigate in these
15 cases what other known human or suspected carcinogens
16 these people were exposed to?

17 A. Yes. I asked that, and went over the data
18 that all known or suspected human carcinogen contact
19 histories in amounts, duration and so forth, had been
20 compiled and analyzed, and --

21 Q. What did you find there? I mean, what were
22 these other human carcinogens or other suspected
23 carcinogens to which these two men were exposed?

24 A. I'd have to go back to Dr. Heying's testimony,
25 I believe is where that was entered into evidence, and

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1 look at that. I haven't reviewed that.

2 Q. You don't have a present recollection?

3 A. No. I was not impressed with anything
4 particularly striking in there, and I don't remember the
5 details.

6 Q. Do you recall that they were exposed to a
7 number of known and/or suspected carcinogens?

8 A. The most striking memory I have is there was
9 no common contact with known carcinogens. If you took
10 all three of them, I asked that a checkerboard b
11 prepared so we could look across and identify very
12 simply any consistent or common contact with known or
13 suspected human carcinogens, and that's my most striking
14 memory that that was not present.

15 Q. So you were looking for common exposures to
16 known or suspected carcinogens?

17 A. No. All exposure, but particularly for -- I
18 shouldn't say "exposure." I think contact or working
19 with something. We do it every day in the laboratory
20 under safe conditions, and that doesn't mean you're
21 exposed to it because you work with it.

22 Q. Was there concern -- If you know, in the
23 '50's, was there concern in laboratory work as to
24 carcinogenicity of low dose substance? If y u kn w.

25 MR. PROUT: Objection at this point. I'm

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1 not sure conc rn where -- and I don't think
2 there's any foundation for this with respect
3 to --

4 THE COMMISSIONER: I'll allow it for the
5 weight. Let the doctor answer, if he knows.
6 I think he understands the question. If he
7 knows.

8 MR. PROUT: I'll withdraw the objection,
9 Your Honor.

10 A. Well, I don't think there's any questi n that
11 our general societal awareness of safety and danger of
12 chemicals and other agents is increasing all the time,
13 and I'm sure what was done in the '50's wasn't at the
14 same level of awareness we have today about it.

15 Q. I got you off the track there. You were --
16 You were particularly looking for common exposures to
17 known or suspected carcinogens. Why would they be
18 particularly significant?

19 A. Well, really, in a sense because you didn't
20 have any other thing to look for. I mean, you very
21 quickly exhaust what you can do in a situation like this
22 when you're trying to find out what the cause is.

23 Q. That is, you were trying to get a clue as to
24 what particular chemical might have been the cause?

25 A. Yes, as I say, my compelling interest, as

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1 tragic as it would have been and is, in the case of
2 these individuals, it would have helped our research to
3 find something to work on here.

4 Q. But many chemicals might, and, in fact, do
5 cause brain cancer in animals; isn't that true?

6 A. Well, it depends on what you mean by "many."
7 Not many out of the total human carcinogens, only a
8 handful among the known human carcinogens.

9 Q. Are there at least 28?

10 A. You know, it depends on what kind of points
11 you want to make. If you break them down by classes of
12 compounds and related compounds, there are only a few
13 classes of compounds that induce experimental brain
14 tumors.

15 If you want to list all of them that have
16 minor ring differences from one another, you can link
17 them on either of the lists. There are quite a number
18 of chemicals and viruses and radiation that will induce
19 brain tumors. It's very difficult to do and requires
20 special situations to make it work in general.

21 Q. So, what we're testifying to, then, is that
22 you couldn't locate a specific exposure that you
23 thought -- a specific chemical exposure that you thought
24 was fruitful for your research here, and analysis?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. Now, the issue here -- Let me -- I'll
2 withdraw that.

3 Did you entertain the possibility that there
4 may be multiple chemical causes of brain cancer?

5 A. Yes, in fact, another area that's just funded
6 for research in this new grant that we have is the
7 business of promotion. Promotion has never been
8 demonstrated relative to nervous system tumors.

9 There are no known promoters that increase the
10 instance of the experimental brain tumors in animals,
11 and that's a potential mechanism to think about, about
12 multiple action, but again, we're very ignorant in this
13 area. We don't know that promoters work at all, and
14 yes, any combination would have been -- --

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Can you explain your
16 use of the word "promoter."

17 THE WITNESS: A promoter is an agent
18 which acts on so-called initiated cells that
19 aids in completing the transformation process
20 to full cancer, if you will. And it can act
21 in concert with other agents to speed up or
22 help the process.

23 BY MR. CARTER:

24 Q. So, do you understand, then, that the issue
25 here is not whether we can locate a particular chemical

1 cause, but whether it's more probabl than not that
2 these brain cancers arose from the occupational
3 exposure?

4 A. You know, the issue seems to be broader than
5 that to me. It's whether you can establish a probable
6 cause for the glioblastomas in these individuals, and --

7 Q. What do you mean when you say "a probable
8 cause"?

9 A. Anything that would contribute toward causing
10 the glioblastoma multiforme in these individuals, and I
11 was able to come up with nothing.

12 Q. And, I mean -- Would you call -- ever call a
13 particular occupation a cause of cancer without kn wing
14 the particular substance that was the pathophysi 1 gical
15 agent of causation?

16 A. Well, perhaps it's easier with a
17 nonoccupational situation with cigarette smoking. This
18 has come up before in this trial. We don't kn w, and
19 what Dr. Krigman was saying and said badly was we don't
20 know the mechanism by which cigarette smoking causes
21 cancer. We know that it does.

22 Q. Dr. Krigman didn't say he thought it caused
23 cancer, did he?

24 A. You --

25 Q. Strike that.

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1 MR. PROUT: I don't know that it's
2 appropriate for counsel and the witness to
3 argue over what another witness' testimony
4 might have been. It was what it was.

5 Q. What -- Maybe you could just answer the
6 question. Now, would you ever call a particular
7 occupation a cause of cancer?

8 MR. PROUT: Objection. There's no
9 foundation. On what facts and circumstances?

10 MR. CARTER: I'll try to analyze the
11 basis of his response to your question. That
12 is, what standard is he using.

13 Q. If you can't find a particular cause, a
14 particular chemical cause, does that put an end to the
15 inquiry of whether there's an occupational cause? And I
16 think the question is proper.

17 MR. PROUT: I don't have any problem with
18 the question as explained.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Let him answer. It's
20 cross-examination.

21 MR. PROUT: Withdraw the objection, Your
22 Honor.

23 A. Yes. We could find a situation that had --
24 where the association was strong enough that we would
25 say there's a link here.

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1 Now, how far we can go in determining what the
2 specifics in that link and association are varies all
3 the time, and what we -- we hope to do and study out
4 mechanisms is to further refine and refine all the time
5 and identify more specifically what it is, but
6 certainly, you could start with an association with an
7 occupation.

8 Q. And that's true at this stage for hematite
9 mining, or do you know that?

10 A. No, I don't know that.

11 Q. Or top side coke oven workers, do you know
12 that?

13 A. No, the only industrial things I would comment
14 on would be vinyl chloride, for example, or something of
15 that nature, and there the association was with
16 repetitive exposures. Largely the people that went in
17 and cleaned the vents out, and a clear-cut link, but --

18 Q. How high was the relative risk in those
19 initial vinyl chloride studies, that is, the relative
20 risk of angiosarcoma?

21 A. I can't comment on the specifics of that. I
22 can make a general comment as a cancer biologist about
23 this, if you'd like.

24 As these stories emerge, they fit, and there's
25 a common theme to them. One of the things that we learn

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1 in psych logy and medicine is that things that are true
2 in nature occur separately in space and time, and the
3 truth emerges with time, and it doesn't happen usually
4 just once and in one situation. The story fits together
5 and --

6 THE COMMISSIONER: How many cases f
7 glioblastoma percentage-wise are ther
8 compared to other brain cancers? Bec use you
9 say that Duke is the treatment center of all
10 glioblastoma cases, so you must have these
11 statistics. What are they?

12 THE WITNESS: It varies. The numbers
13 vary somewhat depending on whether you're
14 looking at an autopsy series or a surgical
15 series where we're just looking at biopsies,
16 whether we're looking at patients that come
17 from major referral centers or out, but
18 overall, the incidence of glioblastomas of all
19 brain tumors is from 40 to 60 percent, and the
20 reason, of course, that we focus on them is
21 that this is the most malignant one, th on
22 that we can't treat, can't prevent. It runs
23 such a rapid uniformly fatal course.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: So glioblastomas
25 multiforme comprise about 40 to 60 percent f

1 all brain cancers?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes.

3 BY-MR. CARTER:

4 Q. Now --

5 THE WITNESS: Excluding metastatic tumors
6 to the brain.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: I'm excluding that.
8 Primary brain tumors.

9 THE WITNESS: Yes, primary brain tumors.

10 Q. Now, isn't it true, for example, with vinyl
11 chloride, you have some familiarity with vinyl chloride
12 production of angiosarcoma?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Isn't it true that the relative increase in
15 angiosarcoma in those initial studies, and even in the
16 defined studies, was only about tenfold relative risk?
17 Do you recall that?

18 A. No. You know, I don't even -- The details of
19 individual studies from where I view these things are
20 less important than how many of them showed the same
21 thing, whether you can then go in and remove the agent
22 and affect the incidence of the disease, stop cigarette
23 smoking, decrease lung cancer.

24 There's another whole loop in determining
25 cause and effect, and bacterial diseases and others w

1 talk about Koch's postulates. You don't conclude cause
2 and effect on the basis of individual case clusters,
3 individual studies. You have to put the whole thing
4 together.

5 Q. In asbestos -- You don't know about asbestos;
6 is that right?

7 A. I don't know enough other than a first-year
8 medical student would.

9 Q. In angiosarcomas from vinyl chloride, at what
10 stage would you have said in the investigation process
11 that you thought there was a reasonable medical
12 probability that vinyl chloride caused angiosarcoma?

13 A. Well, I would have -- Let's review a little
14 bit of the data in the situation. What you had and what
15 emerged very quickly was a common agent, and --

16 Q. How did that emerge, if you can just explain?

17 A. By taking this very rare tumor, which is a
18 different situation than we have here, this is a very
19 rare, very outstanding tumor where the background
20 incidence is extremely low --

21 THE COMMISSIONER: The angiosarcoma?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: What is angiosarcoma
24 for the record?

25 THE WITNESS: It is a malignant tumor of

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1 the blood vessels. In this case, the blood
2 vessels in the liver that has sarcoma implies
3 a malignant transformation of fibroblastic
4 cells.

5 So, you had a common agent, you had it
6 happening at more than one place in this
7 country. There were a number of plants in
8 which very quickly one could look at figures
9 and incidences.

10 BY MR. CARTER:

11 Q. And what did they find?

12 A. Again, as the story emerged, there wer mor
13 than one place in which an association between vinyl
14 chloride and angiosarcoma of the liver emerged. I can't
15 and won't go into the details of the studies. I don't
16 know --

17 Q. Didn't they find three or four cases h re and
18 three or four cases there in different worker
19 populations?

20 A. But there was a common thread. The common
21 thread is vinyl chloride.

22 Q. First the common thread was the occupation,
23 wasn't it?

24 MR. PROUT: May I object, Your Hon r?
25 The witness had not finished his respons .

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1 A. And high dose exposure over a prolonged period
2 of time to the agent stratified even among a particular
3 class of the workers.

4 Q. What they found at first, didn't they, were
5 clusters of three or four workers in different worker
6 populations?

7 A. I don't know. I have not reviewed this
8 literature in detail, and --

9 Q. Do you remember enough to say whether the
10 increasing risk of getting angiosarcoma from this
11 particular occupation was only about tenfold?

12 A. No, I don't know. You asked me earlier about
13 at what point you could determine this. I don't
14 believe -- I'm not aware of any given instance where
15 you can go back to a single cluster, random cluster or
16 single first cluster even of something that ultimately
17 became proven and be sure or have -- have general
18 consensus and acceptance about cause at that point.
19 That's the beginning point.

20 Q. How long did it take OSHA to reduce vinyl
21 chloride exposure to one part per million after those
22 initial few clusters were identified of angiosarcoma?

23 A. You're making a difference between one cluster
24 and few clusters.

25 Q. Few clusters then.

1 A. I'm sure it didn't take long at all. I don't
2 know specifically.

3 Q. It took about two months, didn't it?

4 A. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if they acted
5 very rapidly on that.

6 Q. How many clusters of brain cancer did you
7 review, that is, positive studies among worker
8 populations working with short chain and small aromatic
9 and especially halogenated hydrocarbons in connection
10 with this case?

11 MR. PROUT: Objection, Your Honor. It
12 goes into an area that we didn't go int with
13 this with --

14 THE COMMISSIONER: I'll sustain the
15 objection. Rephrase your question. I'm not
16 sure I understand.

17 MR. CARTER: I'll strike that.

18 Q. Dr. Bigner, you said that in expressing your
19 opinion as to causation, you relied upon analysis of
20 epidemiological literature, that is, clusters in
21 different industries of brain cancer. Is that true?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Now, my question was: How many of these
24 clusters of brain cancer in the chemical industry did
25 you review through studies?

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1 MR. PROUT: Your Honor, may I just renew
2 my objection for the record, for this reason,
3 that this is not an area that we went into in
4 direct-examination, that what's going to
5 happen here, I believe is, that Mr. Carter --

6 THE COMMISSIONER: I don't think you
7 should foresee what's going to happen. I'm
8 going to allow it for the weight. I think the
9 witness can handle the question. We'll pursue
10 it as we go along.

11 MR. PROUT: May I state my concern?

12 THE COMMISSIONER: No, I think we should
13 let the witness answer the question.

14 MR. PROUT: I'll withdraw the objection,
15 Your Honor.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. It's
17 cross-examination. You may -- Do you
18 remember the question?

19 BY MR. CARTER:

20 Q. I'm just asking -- You were saying vinyl
21 chloride -- it took a long time before there was a
22 consensus -- at least, I think was your word -- about
23 causation from vinyl chloride monomer, and I'm looking
24 for that point in the appearance of, you know, various
25 clusters, various investigations of the epidemiology at

1 which it's reasonable to say there's some reasonable
2 medical probability of an association.

3 Now, I'm looking for that same analysis with
4 respect to chemical industry workers and brain cancer,
5 and I'm just asking for what you did review with respect
6 to this case -- these cases.

7 A. I reviewed -- There are 15 to 20 published
8 papers in addition to this proceeding, there are a
9 number of clusters that I've been called about or have
10 reviewed papers that I've even rejected -- had rejected
11 for publication about clusters of brain tumors.

12 In looking at this, and my conclusion is that
13 the data is contradictory, and that we are not at a
14 point where one can make a statement about cause and
15 effect or what would you regulate.

16 If I were an OSHA man, what would I come in
17 and tell them to stop doing?

18 Q. We're not asking about regulations. That
19 wasn't the question. This is a question of
20 compensation, not regulation.

21 Now, in those studies, you said the data was
22 contradictory. What do you mean?

23 A. I mean some studies will claim an association,
24 and others do not.

25 Q. Wasn't that true in the beginning of the

1 studies about asbestos lung cancer, if you know?

2 A. I don't know about asbestos lung cancer.

3 Q. Isn't it true that consistently in the brain
4 cancer clusters, the brain cancer industrial studies, if
5 a latency period of 10 to 20 years is accounted for,
6 there's been a consistent increase in relative risk of
7 brain cancer in working in the petrochemical industry
8 and specifically with short chain halogenated and
9 aromatic compounds?

10 A. Those studies are riddled with problems. Well
11 over half of them are uncontrolled pathologically.
12 There is not -- in my opinion or a consensus opinion of
13 the serious people that work in neurooncology with this
14 problem that we can establish cause and effect yet.

15 Q. Now, when you say "cause and effect," you're
16 talking about a particular association with it --

17 A. I'm not talking about anything. We don't know
18 what causes or what associations exist with glioblastoma
19 that are consistent and that would help us.

20 Q. Do you know who Dr. William Lloyd was?

21 A. No, never heard of him.

22 MR. CARTER: I guess I have no further
23 questions.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Do you have anything?

25 MR. PROUT: Just one, Your Honor, I

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1 believe.

2 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. PROUT:

4 Q. You were asked a question concerning the
5 percentage of -- the percentage of brain tumors which is
6 made up of glioblastoma multiforme. Does that
7 percentage change as you go from one age group to
8 another?

9 A. Yes. That's an extremely important thing that
10 always should be qualified when you're asking that
11 question, because there's a clear-cut, age-related
12 instance of glioblastomas.

13 It's very uncommon in children, for example,
14 and peaks in middle -- to middle adult life, and the
15 relative percentage of that type is different at that --
16 if you're comparing that age group of people than if you
17 were looking at children.

18 MR. PROUT: Nothing further, Your
19 Honor.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much.
21 We'll take a five-minute break here.

22 (Recess taken.)

23 MR. PROUT: Your Honor, at this time, I
24 would like to call Dr. Irving Kessler to the
25 stand. Doctor Kessler.

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