

UL will start a program for the

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A medical research program to study angiosarcoma and related liver abnormalities and develop a medical screening program to detect the disease at earlier stages will be operated by the University of Louisville Health Sciences Center and the UL Cancer Center.

University health sciences officials made the announcement yesterday when they announced that the B. F. Goodrich Co. has given the school a \$250,000 one-year grant to conduct the program.

Goodrich officials at the afternoon press conference said the university and the company will work together on the project.

The basic goals of the program, university officials said, will be:

✓ To develop and implement medical examining and screening procedures.

✓ Establish a registry, which will be a data bank containing all information concerning liver disease and angiosarcoma.

✓ Conduct clinical research related to the problems of angiosarcoma and related liver diseases.

B. F. Goodrich's chemical facility here on Bells Lane uses vinyl chloride in its processes. Vinyl chloride is thought to be a cancer-inducing agent that causes angiosarcoma.

The disease is considered rare, but seven cases have been discovered among workers at the Goodrich plant here. Five of the cases were discovered after the men died. The other two men were diag-

noted as having the cancer after recent surgery.

In a prepared news release, the company said the discovery of the angiosarcoma cases at its plants "indicates the need for broad scientific inquiry into the possible causes, detection and treatment of this disease."

Planning was mutual

The approach to the university about the program to be developed by the grant was a mutual thing, according to university officials.

The release said full use of information developed by other agencies involved in the study of the cancer would be used in the program.

Earlier this week, the National In-

detection of liver cancer

stitute for Occupational Safety and Health said it was recommending to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that no concentration of vinyl chloride vapor be allowed in the air unless the workers wore respirators.

The first stages of the program will concentrate on the problem at Goodrich, according to Dr. Charles Hurchella, administrative and scientific coordinator of the cancer center planning office.

80 to 100 will take part

He said the number of UL faculty members involved in the various phases of the program could be between 80 and 100.

Dr. John Creech, plant physician for Goodrich in Louisville, said the company

"realized we had a problem and have come to the university to seek their assistance. . . ."

Creech said 4.4 per cent (or about 30 workers) of the 1,170 employees at the plant have had to be retested more than once.

He said no additional cases of angiosarcoma have been found.

Asked if there is any possibility that other cases may appear, Creech said, "Obviously there is some suspicion or we wouldn't be initiating this project. I can't say there is no possibility that no other cases will be found. I know of no other additional cases right now."

He said, "If we should find additional cases, we'll have the expertise of the university to help treat or plan the treatment."

Company officials were indefinite about what will happen after the grant expires. They said they also haven't had time to notify other chemical firms about the grant to UL for the research program.

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