

1. Blohmke Project - University of Heidelberg

Att. 7

It is recalled that the Blohmke project is designed to determine whether, for smoking and non-smoking lung cancer patients, a connection can be shown between psychosocial factors and the incidence of lung cancer.

I met (prior to Dr. Nystrom's arrival in Europe) with Prof. Blohmke and the members of her team in Bohinj, Yugoslavia, where the first results of our studies were presented at the Third International Symposium on Psychobiologic, Psychophysiologic, Psychosomatic, and Sociomatic Aspects of Neoplastic Disease, September 4-8, 1978. (See separate report.) The attached abstract/ (Attach. 6) and confidential preliminary draft/ (Attach. 7) from the symposium project summarize the results to date; the author, Stelzer, is, of course, a member of the Blohmke team.

Various discussions were held with Prof. Blohmke and her associates during the about 36 hours I spent in Yugoslavia. We discussed the difficulties of the various clinics where "cases and controls" are being recruited and new institutes to be added.

Other discussions were held with Dr. Baltrusch regarding his forthcoming interpretation of the handwriting samples. Prof. Blohmke expressed her desire to try to measure additional biological parameters in lung cancer patients and she expressed interest of meeting with Dr. Rao in order to discuss whether the study of the parameters which he has written about might add to the usefulness of our study.

I also discussed with Dr. Jacob of Heidelberg whether or not we might expand, as potentially projected, our grant to include a

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study of the pathology of the lung cancer cases and determine whether or not any correlations with the psychosomatic factors can be uncovered. Unfortunately, Dr. Jacob is somewhat difficult to motivate to make a real working contribution on his part. For that reason, after a one-to-one confidential discussion with Prof. Blohmke, I followed her suggestion in laying down some rather unequivocal conditions for Dr. Jacob as follows: all pathology slides will be examined "blind" and independently by two pathologists; all administrative tasks resulting from including the pathology examination in the project will be the responsibility of Prof. Jacob or a suitable assistant; and that none of Prof. Blohmke's other associates be burdened with those tasks. I made it clear to Dr. Jacob that his forthcoming research proposal should make provisions for these conditions. I also made it clear to him that it would be necessary for him to submit a workable proposal to us well before the end of the year. I am planning to remind Dr. Jacob again during my next visit to Germany about the deadline and other conditions agreed to.

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