

15 The twin studies will provide information on smoking customs as well as on a wide range of environmental exposures and occupational activities in relation to sickness and mortality, the report said.

16 Further, the twin projects should provide a valuable source for many other research efforts that will include the effects of multiple environmental factors on individuals of identical genetic make-up and during the process of aging.

17 The Council is also sponsoring research into familial predisposition to diseases, the report said, pointing out that the tendency for cancers to occur in some families is greater than in others. This tendency may be restricted to cancers of certain sites or to two or more sites.

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The report noted that cancer is a multi-stage process probably resulting from a series of sequential changes in the biological system of the host organism. These changes, in turn, are presumed to depend both upon the initial, genetically determined characteristics of the system and also upon a series of separate actions by the external inciting agent or agents that require that require specific physical or chemical properties and conditions.

While it is well-known that such agents, called "carcinogens" (cancer-causing substances) or "potential carcinogens," may induce cancer in one species, strain or tissue under particular circumstances, they may not do so in another species, strain or tissue, or under other circumstances.

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A major goal of The Council's research program is to identify those animal strains in which various individual factors are combined in a way to produce maximal cancer susceptibility. Another goal is to create such combinations of traits by genetic manipulations.