

Announcement

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CELL CULTURE COLLECTION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

During the past year virologists concerned with the etiology of human cancer and cell culturists interested in virus research have held several meetings under the auspices of the National Cancer Institute. Their review of the problems developing in the rapidly growing field of mammalian cell culture has pointed out the urgent need for a systematic process of characterizing and certifying cell lines, with provision for the establishment of reference or prototype cultures in long-term frozen preservation, as well as an adequate supply of certified seed stocks available to all qualified investigators.

To help realize these objectives and form the basis for a new disciplinary approach to cell cultures, a new national committee has recently been set up on a non-governmental basis.

The new committee, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jerome T. Syverton of the University of Minnesota Medical School, plans to seek the advice and cooperation of various scientists now working in or concerned with cell culture. Members of Dr. Syverton's committee are: Dr. John F. Enders, Chief of the Research Division, Infectious Diseases, Children's Medical Center, Boston; Dr. William A. Clark, Director of the American Type Culture Collection, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Lewis L. Coriell, Research Director, South Jersey Medical Research Foundation, Camden, New Jersey; Dr. Cyril S. Stulberg, Senior Research Associate, Child Research Center of Michigan, Detroit; Dr. Joseph W. Beard, Professor of Experimental Surgery and Associate Professor of Virology, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina; Dr. John G. Kidd, Professor of Pathology, Cornell University Medical School, New

York City; Dr. Morgan Harris, Professor and Chairman, Department of Zoology, University of California at Berkeley.

The Committee is immediately interested in developing criteria for certifying strains of mammalian cells and desires the support and active participation of cell culturists, cytologists, microbiologists, and related scientists of all disciplines in order that an appropriate program may be set up.

At present, fourteen different laboratories in the United States have indicated an interest in assisting with this effort. Of these, two are planning to undertake some major portion of the tasks of cell line characterization and certification. A third laboratory will act as a central repository and distribution center.

Dr. Lewis L. Coriell at Camden, New Jersey, and Dr. Cyril S. Stulberg, at Detroit, have agreed to establish the first two major centers for the study and banking of cell strains. Dr. William A. Clark of Washington, D.C. will serve as director of a central repository for the characterized strains and will receive for frozen storage over liquid nitrogen any prototypes which can be so certified by the Committee, together with matching antisera, and seed stock for long-term preservation. Research on preservation, storage procedures, and revival techniques will also be carried out.

Qualified investigators who wish to participate in this program with a responsible commitment to devote some time to these objectives should write Dr. Jerome T. Syverton, Chairman, Cell Culture Collection Coordinating Committee, Department of Bacteriology, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.