



# International Cancer News

Compiled by Robert Short, News Editor, London

## From The Globe

### ORAL CANCER RESEARCH CENTRES RECEIVE \$2.8 MILLION

The National Institute of Dental Research and the National Cancer Institute in the U.S.A. are funding four centres researching the causes and treatment of oral cancer.

The grants for the four centres total \$2.8 million for this year and will be supplemented with additional funds over a 5-year grant period. They have been awarded to the University of Alabama at Birmingham; the University of California, San Francisco; the University of Chicago and Northwestern University; and the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas. All except the last centre grant

are co-funded by the National Cancer Institute.

The new oral cancer research centres will include not only basic research, but also clinical investigations and rehabilitation to help patients return to normal activities. One of the projects will look at the effect of nutrition on the development of oral tumours. Another will focus on the role of viruses such as the human papilloma virus in causing oral cancer. Investigators will study the genetic basis for tumour growth, as well as identify markers for early diagnosis. Because oral cancer is complicated by the ability of cancerous cells to

invade surrounding tissues and metastasise to distant sites in the body, the researchers will also explore the factors controlling this process at the molecular level.

The centres aim to develop improved treatments for oral cancer. "We need to move on to so-called 'smart' therapeutics," said Dr Harold Slavkin, Director of the National Institute of Dental Research. "We need approaches that will not destroy healthy bone and salivary gland tissue adjacent to the cancer, but will enable us to replace defective genes or insert a suicide gene to make malignant cells self-destruct."

### UICC 1998-2002 OFFICIALS ELECTED

The Council of the International Union Against Cancer have elected leaders of the UICC for 1998-2002. They will take office at the International Cancer Congress in Rio de Janeiro in August 1998.

The UICC is devoted to all aspects of the worldwide fight against cancer. Its objectives are to advance scientific and medical knowledge in the research, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer and to promote all other aspects of the campaign against cancer throughout the world. Professional and public education is stressed by the UICC.

Dr Max M. Burger (Switzerland) will Chair the Governing Board of the International Cancer Foundation.

The following Programme Chairmen were elected to take office in 1998:

#### Committee on International Collaborative Activities (CICA)

Dr S. Kvinnsland (Norway)

#### Campaign Organisation, Public Education and Patient Support Programme (COPES)

Mr R. Hudson (Ireland)

#### Detection and Diagnosis

Dr M. Bodo (Hungary)

#### Fellowships

Dr K. Nilsson (Sweden)

#### Tobacco and Cancer

Dr A. Hirsch (France)

#### Treatment of Cancer

Dr J. Jin-Pok Kim Kim (Korea, Seoul)

#### Tumour Biology

Dr K. Höffken (Germany)

#### GLOBALink

Dr R. Lenhard (U.S.A.)

The following Programme Chairmen were re-elected to a second term of office from 1998-2002:

#### Epidemiology and Prevention

Dr S. Tominaga (Japan)

#### Professional Education

Dr A. Beltran Ortega (Mexico)

Following Dr Robinson's election as President Elect, Dr R. Bedwani (Egypt) was elected to represent the members of Council on the Executive Committee.

#### Leaders of the UICC for 1998-2002

President Elect

Dr R. Robinson (Israel)

Secretary General Elect

Dr G. Murphy (U.S.A.)

Treasurer Elect

Dr E. Deeks (Belgium)

Chairman of the Finance Committee Elect

Mr J. Batty (U.S.A.)