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Cytology Fights Battle Against Cancer

The field of cytology has proved a valuable tool, not only in the fight against cancer but in the detection of various other conditions as well.

A precise science in only its third decade of development, cytology uses body fluids and tiny bits of tissue to help diagnose a wide range of human ailments. But its most dramatic value is still in the early detection of cancer.

According to Dr. William W. Johnston, director of cytopathology at Duke, the only hope to cure cancer at present is to catch it in its early stages of development.

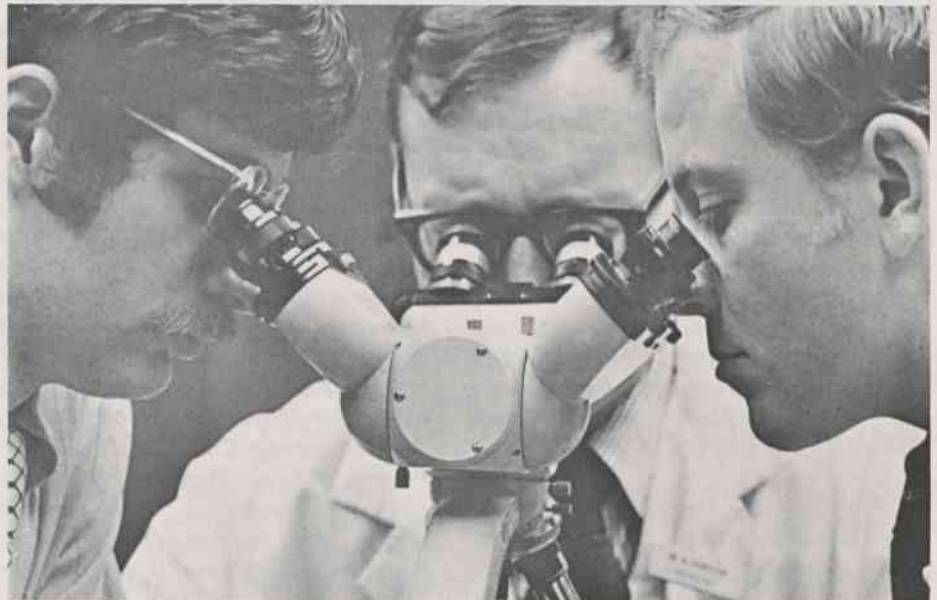
"In many instances," said Dr. Johnston, "when cancer is discovered it is too late to treat it and all we can do is prolong the life of the patient. But by examining naturally occurring secretions obtained through examination, the cytopathology laboratory can detect cancer even when the individual is not experiencing any symptoms."

For example, he said, a routine part of every physical examination for a woman is a genital cytologic smear (pap test) to detect any cells that are characteristic of cancerous organisms.

"Fifty years ago cervical cancer was one of the leading causes of death among women, but with cytopathology laboratory techniques, cervical cancer can be detected early enough to be cured," Dr. Johnston said.

The fact that cervical cancers are 100 per cent curable if detected early enough is a remarkable testimony to the value of the cytology laboratory, he said.

The most common forms of cancer are those affecting the cervix, large bowel, skin, prostate, throat, breast, head, neck, stomach and lung. Most of these, said Dr.



TRIPLEHEADER—Members of Duke's cytopathology laboratory use the triple-headed microscope to examine cells for diagnostic purposes. Dr. William Johnston, center, director of cytopathology at Duke, reviews slides with two resident physicians.

4 New Appointments Announced

Four new faculty appointments at Duke University Medical Center have been announced by Dr. Frederick N. Cleaveland, University Provost.

Dr. Peter Brian Bennett, named professor of anesthesiology, comes to Duke from England where he was head of the Pressure Physiology Section of the Royal Navy Physiological Laboratory and scientific coordinator of the Deep Diving Program. Dr. Bennett received his B.Sc. degree in zoology, chemistry, and botany from the University of London and his Ph.D. in physiology and biochemistry from Southampton University.

Also appointed in the Department of Anesthesiology was Dr. William J. Murray

who is an associate professor. Dr. Murray is a native of Janesville, Wis., and, prior to coming to Duke, was an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Anesthesiology at the Upjohn Center for Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Michigan. He received a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin in 1959 and his M.D. from the University of North Carolina in 1962.

Dr. Robert E. McLelland has been appointed to an associate professorship in radiology. Before coming to Duke as an assistant clinical professor of radiology, Dr. McLelland served as director of the Department of Radiology at the Memorial Hospital of Danville, Virginia.

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