

Cancer-Detection Breakthrough

Dr. Patrick Wong, a scientist at Canada's National Research Council (NRC), with the co-operation of Dr. Basil Rigos of Cornell University, has made a major scientific breakthrough that could allow doctors to determine in only 10 minutes whether cells are cancerous.

Current diagnostic procedures for cancer detection require highly skilled visual examination of prepared sample slides by a pathologist. The methods are subjective and can lead to

uncertain results in difficult cases. Early detection of cancerous tissue, therefore, is not always possible.

But with the new spectroscopy technology, which the NRC has been experimenting with during the past decade, cells taken by needle biopsies are put under strong pressure and then doused with infra-red light. Results indicate a different pattern of light absorption in cancerous and non-cancerous cells.

The most important feature of WR-DIASPEC (Wong-Rigos Diagnostic Spectroscopy) is that it systematically detects cell anomalies in a completely scientific way, without relying on empirical observation or analysis of symptoms. "This is a scientific method," says Wong, "no visual errors by the human eye are involved."

The new technology can also detect cancers in the earliest stages of growth — it is sensitive enough to detect when as few as 10 per cent of cells are cancerous — and can distin-

guish between malignant and benign tumours. It is also very efficient: the test can be administered and results obtained in less than 10 minutes, and no prior preparation is required.

This simple, certain and early cancer detection device is expected to be on the market within the next two years. The discovery is expected to have a dramatic impact on the ability of the medical profession to detect cancer quickly and accurately.

De Cuellar Donates Art Collection to Canada

On May 28, 1990, during a visit to Ottawa, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and his wife Marcela donated their collection of decorative folk art to the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Begun seven years ago, the collection consists of 160 pieces, each representative of the traditions, customs or local rituals of the different countries visited by Perez de Cuellar in the course of his duties.

In making this bequest, Mrs. Perez de Cuellar stated that she and her husband wished to pay homage to Canada's generosity towards Third World countries and its constant support of the United Nations organization. She also expressed the wish that all who viewed the collection, whether Canadians or visitors from abroad, would be inspired to reflect on Canada's support for international humanitarian and cultural ideals.



Mrs. Perez de Cuellar pays homage to Canada's generosity towards the Third World and its constant support of the UN.

Canada Reports is published by the Foreign Policy Communications Division, External Affairs and International Trade Canada, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2.

Telex: 053-3745

Editor-in-Chief:
Henry Kolatacz

Editor:
Mary Anne Dehler

Production editor:
Ann Gibbs

Art direction:
Bob Thompson

Comments or suggestions from readers are welcome. A credit is requested for any material reprinted.

*Cette publication existe également en français sous le titre **Reportage Canada**.*

*Esta publicación es disponible en español con el título **Reportaje Canadá**.*