

Enter

- o An epidemiologic study of 15 healthy homosexual men in which the investigators observed suppression of the immune system after inhalation of amyl and butyl nitrites, so-called recreational drugs. Status: Study completed and reported in "Amyl Nitrite May Alter T Lymphocytes in Homosexual Men," Dr. James Goedert (principal investigator, et. al, The Lancet, February 20, 1982.)

Contact: Dr. James Goedert, 496-4375

- o Community-based epidemiologic study of a group of healthy homosexual males (160) in Washington, D.C., and New York City (90). The study offers the opportunity to compare information gathered on the two groups. The study includes administering questionnaires to the volunteers about medical history and life style habits, physical exams and laboratory tests, and review of medical abstracts. (Few cases of Kaposi's sarcoma have been reported among native D.C. homosexual males, and it is unknown why occurrence of the cancer is low in D.C. compared with other areas.) Status: Study is expected to be completed in six months.

Contact: Dr. James Goedert (principal investigator), 496-4375

- o A collaborative study with the Institute of Cancer Research, Aarhus, Denmark, currently is being conducted on 259 healthy homosexual men in Copenhagen and Aarhus. The investigators are collecting information on health history, immunology, drug use, life style habits (i.e., number of sexual partners, drug use), and presence of cytomegalovirus (CMV) and antibody. CMV infection is thought to play a role, as yet not understood, in the occurrence of Kaposi's sarcoma and opportunistic infections. Status: Study is expected to be completed in six months.

Contact: Dr. Robert Biggar (NCI principal investigator), 496-6425. (Dr. Biggar presently is out of the country. His co-principal investigator is Dr. Peter Ebbesen, Institute of Cancer Research, Aarhus, Denmark.

- o A second collaborative study with the Institute of Cancer Research, Aarhus, Denmark, involving the same homosexual males that are participating in the study mentioned above. The investigators will identify risk factors (i.e., nitrite use) for Kaposi's sarcoma and opportunistic infections among the men. They will look for differences in risk factors between those who have normal immune function and those with abnormal immune function (as measured by H/S ratios). Many of the studies being conducted on Kaposi's sarcoma among homosexual men, are based on the assumption that immune dysfunction is a key factor in the development of the cancer. It is possible that immunosuppression is not related to development of the cancer. By comparing risk factors of those with normal and abnormal immune function, the investigators may provide information to support or negate the theory that immune abnormalities are "markers" for

susceptibility to the cancer. Status: Study will be completed in six months to a year.

Contact: Dr. Robert Biggar (NCI principal investigator), 496-6425. The co-principal investigator is Dr. Peter Ebbesen, Institute of Cancer Research, Aarhus, Denmark.

o Animal studies:

- o two animal studies are being conducted to examine the potential for nitrites and CMV to suppress the immune systems of rhesus monkeys. Status: One study is expected to be completed in six months, and the other in a year.

Contact: Dr. Robert Biggar, 496-6425.

- o A study to investigate the potential of mouse sperm to suppress the immune system. Sperm usually remain out of the blood stream and thus are isolated from the immune system. The mouse sperm were found to be immunosuppressive in mice. Status: The study was completed and reported in "Germ Cell-Induced Immune Suppression in Mice: Effect of Inoculation of Syngeneic Spermatozoa on Cell-Mediated Immune Responses," by Drs. Ursula Hurtenbach and Gene Shearer, Journal of Experimental Medicine, *June 1982; and "Is Sperm Immunosuppressive in Male Homosexuals and Vasectomized Men?" by Drs. Gene Shearer and Ursula Hurtenbach, Immunology Today, *June 1982.
- o Drs. Hurtenbach and Shearer are working on another study now to examine the synergistic effect of mouse sperm and cytomegalovirus on the immune systems of mice. Status: Study in progress; not completion date projected yet.

Contacts: Dr. Gene Shearer and Dr. Ursula Hurtenbach, 496-5464

* I don't have reprints yet. For final copy of the text and galleys, see my Kaposi's sarcoma file on top of my file cabinet if needed.