

Pathologist devotes life to cancer research

By SUZIE ROLLINS SINGER

Cancer kills 25 percent of all humans. American Caucasian women have one chance in 16 of contracting breast cancer.

Among those working to turn those statistics around is Dr. Thomas Robbins of Troy, a pathologist at William Beaumont Hospital.

Dr. Robbins, along with four colleagues from Detroit area hospitals, was cited recently by the Michigan Cancer Foundation for his work on developing tests to detect breast cancer.

Since 1975, Dr. Robbins has spending part of each work week conducting tests for a government-funded cancer foundation research project. He was selected for the research because of his reputation, said Curtis Wilner of the cancer foundation.

"The objective is to develop a set of tests to detect breast cancer and to study tumors and develop prognostic tests," Wilner said.

Each week, the five doctors receive four test cases to study. With patient permission, a portion of the malignant tumor tissue is divided into multiple

portions, placed on microscopic slides and delivered to the doctors, who study it and answer questionnaires on it.

"WHEN WE'RE ALL finished, all of our opinions on the tumors are fed into a computer. If a major discrepancy occurs we're told it exists then asked to re-examine the slides," Dr. Robbins said. "It's important for us not to know anything about each other's interpretation so we don't become prejudiced."

So far the doctors have each classified over 700 cases. Dr. Robbins said it takes him about one-half hour a week to complete the questionnaires.

Although their research hasn't resulted in any breakthroughs yet, the data is helping in understanding the disease and moving toward tests to detect it in early stages.

From his basement office at Beaumont, Dr. Robbins modestly said the research project is a natural extension of his personal interest in identifying and studying cancer-causing agents.

"We're doing a lot of studies on tumors and testing patients' antibodies. We're trying to correlate the data and find out as much as possible about breast cancer in order to find a cure for it."

According to numerous studies, it is exceedingly rare for cancer to strike women under age 20 and it is very rare in women under 30.

"THE OLDER you get the more chance you have in developing breast

cancer," he added. "Cancer curves rise to a peak at age 65, then go down."

Dr. Robbins said the number of people diagnosed with cancer has not increased during the last few decades, but the numbers of cancer-causing agents in the environment has risen.

"I don't think the amount of cancer is increasing, but we're finding more things associated with cancer," Dr. Robbins said.

"We live in a sea of chemicals. There are about 65,000 chemicals in our environment, so we don't know what we're exposed to," he added.

Finding a cure for cancer is something researchers will need more time at, although progress is being made, he said. Doctors know certain habits, like cigarette smoking, causes forms of cancer.

White completes Navy flight course

Navy Medical Corps Lt. Michael J. White, a 1977 graduate of the Wayne State University Medical School, has completed Navy flight surgeon training at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute in Pensacola, Fla.

He is the son of Mary McCallum of Farmington.

During the six-month training program, White received aviation officer indoctrination, didactic and clinical training in aviation medicine and six weeks of flight training in the Navy's T-34C turbo-prop aircraft.

White will report for duty at the Naval Air Station, Willow Grove, Pa.



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REPORT OF CONDITION

Consolidating domestic subsidiaries of the Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington of Farmington Hills in the state of Michigan, at the close of business on December 31, 1980, published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under Title 12, United States Code, Section 161.

Charter number 15049 National Bank Region Number 7

Statement of Resources and Liabilities

	Thousands of dollars
Cash and due from depository institutions	2,045
U.S. Treasury securities	3,378
Obligations of U.S. Government agencies and corporations	500
Obligations of States and political subdivisions in the United States	1,212
All other securities	26
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	17,416
Loans, Total (excluding unearned income)	17,474
Less: Allowance for possible loan losses	17,242
Loans, Net	-20
Lease financing receivables	859
Bank premises, furniture and other assets representing bank premises	55
Real estate owned other than bank premises	284
All other assets	27,601
TOTAL ASSETS	7,389
Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	15,762
Time and savings deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	62
Deposits of United States Government	555
Deposits of States and political subdivisions in the United States	None
All other deposits	502
Certified and officers' checks	24,970
Total Deposits	8,525
Total time and savings deposits	16,455
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase	-0-
Interest-bearing demand notes (note balances) issued to the U.S. Treasury and other liabilities for borrowed money	-0-
Mortgage indebtedness and liability for capitalized leases	-0-
All other liabilities	25,331
TOTAL LIABILITIES (excluding subordinated notes and debentures)	250
Subordinated notes and debentures	-0-
Preferred stock	None
Common stock	52,168
No shares authorized	52,168
Surplus	522
Unaudited profits and reserve for contingencies and other capital reserves	394
TOTAL EQUITY CAPITAL	1,104
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY CAPITAL	27,601
Amounts outstanding as of report date:	
Standby letters of credit, total	8
Time certificates of deposit in denominations of \$100,000 or more	1,006
Other time deposits in amounts of \$100,000 or more	None
Average for 30 calendar days (or calendar month) ending with report date:	
Total deposits	25,072

We, the undersigned directors attest the correctness of this statement of resources and liabilities. We declare that it has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief it is true and correct.

Leon R. Serdyski
Director
John A. Dwyer, Jr.
Director
Olaf H. Henry
Director

Leon R. Serdyski
Executive Vice President/Cashier

I, Leon R. Serdyski, of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

January 30, 1981

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