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FEB 13 1972

By Al Diefenbach

Cancer-research center to perform many functions

By AL DIEFENBACH
Medical Editor

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, which received \$5 million through the Regional Medical Program last week, could receive its first patients late in 1974 or early in 1975.

While that 30- to 36-month interval may seem lengthy, it is only about half of the time spent since late 1965 when the talks and negotiations began among Pacific Northwest cancer specialists, researchers, private and public institutions and government agencies.

The delay, in a way, reflects the complexity of cancer itself. The task of coordinating the wide range of research efforts and the interests of individual organizations was a formidable one.

Then there were the required grant application, which runs to 263 pages and the site visits by government officials and cancer specialists.

ALL THAT, thankfully, is past. The Washington, Alaska, Idaho and Oregon Regional Medical Programs have given their blessing. The University of Washington, Children's Orthopedic Hospital, Virginia Mason Hospital and the Pacific Northwest Research Foundation are "aboard."

Each will link its special programs into the center. Swedish Hospital will provide the necessary backup services of a major medical center. Dr. William B. Hutchinson will be the director.

The Seattle surgeon, a longtime fighter against cancer, is the brother of Fred Hutchinson, former Seattle and major-league baseball player and manager, who died of cancer in 1964 at the age of 45.

A 24-member board of trustees will oversee operation of the cancer-research center, which is to have 20 beds initially.

PATIENTS WILL be referred from throughout the Pacific Northwest to specific programs at the center. Although selected for these programs, the patients will receive optimal care through any or all of the center's specialized personnel, equipment and techniques.

Besides its treatment and research functions, the center is to serve as a teaching unit for cancer and cancer-related specialties.

Support in funding and in other areas will be available through the American Cancer Society and its affiliates and the Pacific Northwest Research Foundation.

The center will be geared

toward cancer research in experimental immunotherapy, organ transplantation, radiation, chemotherapy and surgery.

Referral patients with any type of cancer, though mainly the types that are known to spread to other parts of the body, will be eligible for admission.

In addition, laboratory research projects will be done on immunology, chemical agents that cause cancer, virology and drug studies.

THE CENTER will have facilities for studying cancer as an epidemic-type disease and for collecting data, which will include use of the Regional Medical Program's automated tumor registry.

Plans are to make available a full range of rehabilitation services, follow-up care and social services. Educational services will be through medical schools, community hospitals, graduate and undergraduate programs, demonstration courses and medical and lay-community information services.

The center itself will be built adjacent to Swedish Hospital and will be connected to the hospital by a tunnel and a bridge.

Among the research specialists who will participate in the center's work will be Dr. H. O. Sjogren, Dr. Ver-

non Riley, Dr. Edward Perin, Dr. E. Donnell Thomas, Dr. C. Dean Buckner, Dr. Alexander Fefer, Dr. Karl Erik Hellstrom, Dr. Ingegard Hellstrom, Dr. John Scribner, Dr. Thomas Slaga, Dr. Ruth Shearer, Dr. E. Russell Alexander, Dr. John A. H. Lee, Dr. Ann Carter, Dr. John R. Hartmann, Dr. Hutchinson and their associates.

THE ESTIMATED cost of construction is \$5.5 million, including the \$5 million federal grant and \$500,000 in local matching funds, as required under the federal award.

The center has projected an estimated \$5 million income for maintaining and operating the center in 1975. Funds would be from research and training grants, donations, investment income and other sources.

It is estimated that the cost of care will be \$150 a bed a day in 1975 and that about \$200,000 a year (40 per cent of the daily bed-care costs) will be recovered from insurance payments. Patients will be admitted, however, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center can now, indeed, continue toward becoming a model of service with a community-wide background and outlook.