

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

OPERATED BY

717402

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION  
NUCLEAR DIVISION



16 2 21

POST OFFICE BOX Y  
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

February 28, 1980

TM/3/11/80

Dr. Thaddeus J. Domanski  
Division of Cancer Research, Resources  
and Centers  
National Cancer Institute  
National Institutes of Health  
Westwood Building  
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

REPOSITORY MMES / X-10 / 450c N  
COLLECTION Director's Files  
BOX No. \_\_\_\_\_  
FOLDER \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Thad:

In response to your recent telephone inquiry concerning alleged TPA experiments using human subjects, it is hoped the following explanations will provide you with sufficient information. I might add that I, too, received a telephone call, from probably the same individual who contacted you, accusing me of treating people with TPA.

First, I would like to state emphatically that I have never treated anyone other than myself with the agent, TPA, nor do I have plans to initiate such investigations using human subjects. I did on one occasion in the spring of 1979 apply a very small amount of TPA to my own skin. This was done primarily out of curiosity outside the laboratory and after hours. In addition, four other individuals in my research group also applied a small amount of TPA to their own skin one time. I neither asked them to do such nor did I apply the agent. Since TPA had been found to cause inflammation and hyperplasia in mouse skin, I was interested in determining the effect on human skin especially since there were reports suggesting TPA might inhibit growth in human cells. Our laboratory had determined, for example, that TPA inhibited human foreskin growth in culture. These in vitro studies using TPA are not associated with my NIH grant or my NIH contract but rather with Department of Energy funding. Croton oil, the source of TPA, has been and still is, to a certain degree, used for a variety of reasons on both humans and in veterinary medicine.

I would like to point out that it was suggested that perhaps such studies on a very small scale were warranted. I therefore applied for permission to perform such studies using humans and presented the proposed research to our local Committee for Human Rights which reviews such work. The Committee felt the proposed investigation had definite scientific merit but opposed the selection of voluntary laboratory personnel as subjects. They also encouraged

1120638

3/11/80 - Copies to: Mr. Namovicz  
File CA 20076 (official + mini)

A-00230

Human Subjects Project

February 28, 1980

Page 2

a more extensive investigation than I was interested in pursuing. They asked that I resubmit the proposal although I never did so. I simply never got around to it, and I must confess I have now lost all interest.

Above all, I must emphasize that this has nothing to do with my NIH grant supported research which concerns polycyclic hydrocarbon metabolism in mice or my NIH contract which concerns in vitro transformation of mouse epidermal cells. I am certainly well aware of the NIH rules and regulations governing research involving human subjects and would never abuse that.

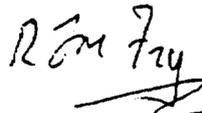
I am indeed sorry this incident has developed to such a point and sincerely hope it can now be put to rest. Should you desire more information, please do not hesitate to contact me. In addition, Dr. R. J. M. Fry, Head, Cancer and Toxicology Program, ORNL and/or Dr. C. R. Richmond, Acting Director, Biology Division, ORNL are both very familiar with the situation and would be happy to talk with you.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Slaga, Ph.D.  
Senior Staff, ORNL



R. J. M. Fry, M.D.  
Head, Cancer and Toxicology Program  
Biology Division, ORNL



C. R. Richmond, Ph.D.  
Acting Director, Biology Division  
ORNL

TJS:ms

1120639