

28-29 December

Comparative Immunology of the Oral Cavity

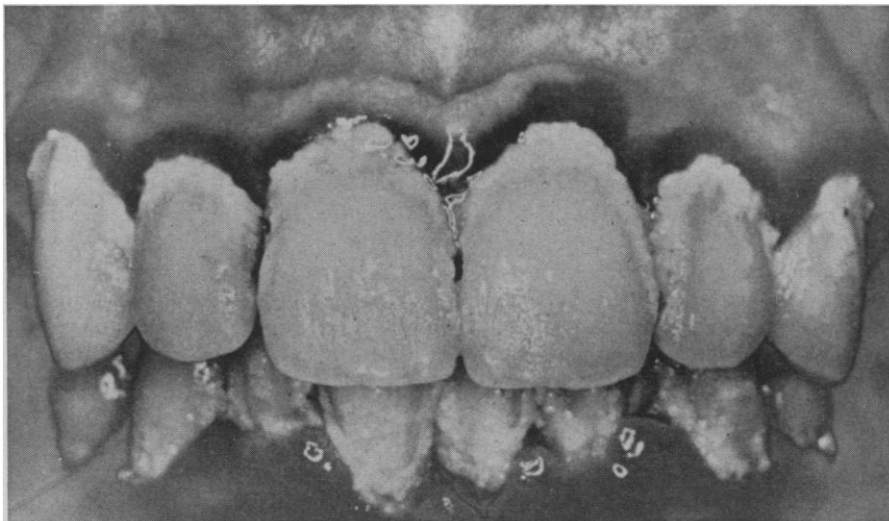


Fig. 1 (above). Front teeth (human) densely coated with bacterial mats. Gingivitis in the gum tissue. [National Institute of Dental Research]

Fig. 2 (right). Root caries. Plaque accumulation on human canine tooth. [National Institute of Dental Research]



This 2-day symposium aims to collate our knowledge of the parameters regulating the often unusual immunological phenomena operative in the oral cavity.

The tooth, an essentially unreactive tissue, is constantly colonized by acidogenic bacteria, which under suitable conditions initiate demineralization and cavitation (dental caries). The only close analogues are fungus infections of the hair and nails. What regulates this relationship—salivary antibodies, phagocytes, biochemical factors of the oral environment, factors inherent in the structure of the outer dental enamel of different teeth or of different microscopic sites on individual teeth? Similarly, the oral mucosa is constantly exposed to a high concentration of potentially very virulent bacteria, yet these rarely establish infection within the lo-

cal tissues. Contrariwise, the ubiquitous common type of destructive, inflammatory periodontal disease probably is mediated in part by allergic reactions to locally produced bacterial antigens. As phenomena of local immunity, the data will be analyzed in the context of (i) immunity in other organ systems involving secretory immunoglobulins, such as respiratory tract, intestinal tract, genitourinary tract, and mammary gland, and (ii) general immunopathology. Accordingly, three introductory papers will concern, respectively, the structure and biosynthesis of secretory immunoglobulin A; antiviral local immunity; and antibacterial activities of secretory IgA.

The second half-day includes two discussions of genetic, biomedical, and microbiological parameters associated with innate resistance to dental caries; a third paper will consider the peculiar

problems besetting attempted artificial immunization against dental caries.

The second day deals with immunity and immunopathology of oral soft tissues, including roles of several components of complement: humoral and bacterial mediators of inflammation; the paradoxical mediation of both defense and injury by antibody and complement in herpessimplex virus infection; changes in the human oral microbiota associated with administration of immunosuppressive drugs; mediation of oral immunopathologic processes by lymphoid cells; and peculiar features of tooth transplant rejection. The symposium will close with an overview of bacterial immunity of the oral cavity and comparable organ systems.

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27 December

The Information-Conscious Society

Eugene Garfield, president of the Institute for Scientific Information in Philadelphia, will chair a symposium

on the Information-Conscious Society. The theme of the symposium is the need of the public, and of sectors of the pub-

lic, for information that can be used in the clarification and, hopefully, solution of social and economic problems.

Though much information useful to the purpose undoubtedly exists, society as a whole, despite striking advances in communications technology, has done

comparatively little to make such information generally available. Speakers include Barry Commoner, "The political impact of scientific information"; Robert L. Ackerly, "The freedom of information act and release of informa-

tion by federal agencies"; Harold P. Green, "Information for public policy decision-making in licensing nuclear power plants"; Jeremy J. Stone, "Getting the scientist's message across: The arms race"; and Ambassador Abbott

Washburn, "Prospects of instantaneous exchange of information at the international level."

EUGENE GARFIELD

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28 December

Alternative Approaches to National Delivery of Health Care

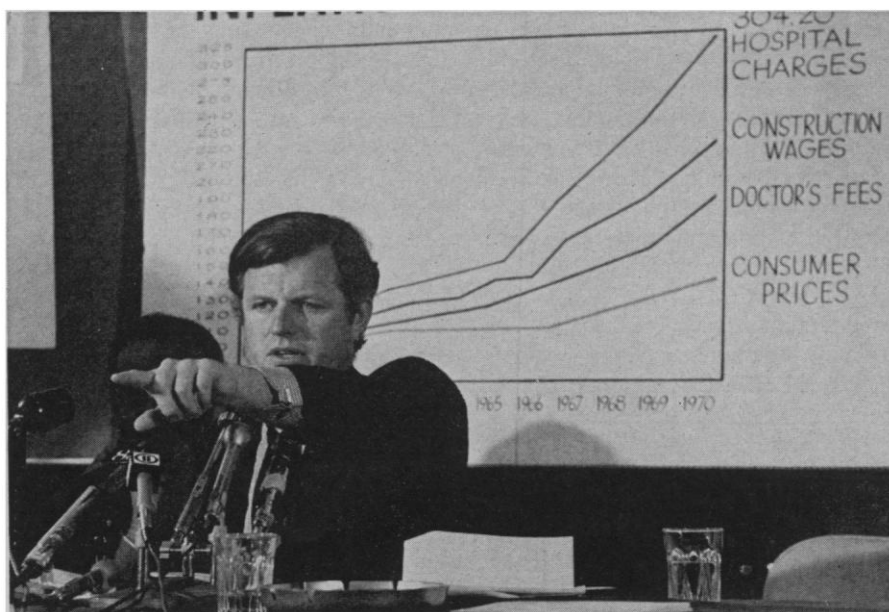
Health has become a personal right, somewhat similar to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—unalienable and universal. How this right can be guaranteed to everyone is a burning issue of the day; and the objective of the symposium on 28 December is to set forth the four major alternative approaches to national delivery of health care.

These alternatives are offered by the legislative and executive branches of the government, the American Medical Association (AMA), and the insurance industry.

A vigorous expression of each viewpoint is expected and encouraged. The legislative viewpoint will be presented by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Manpower. The American Medical Association point of view will be

presented by a member of the AMA Council on Legislation, who is also the chairman of the Committee on Legislation of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. The insurance viewpoint will be presented by the president of Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

Each of the principal points of view will be commented on by discussants who will have previewed the main arguments, and who have been selected carefully for their knowledgeability, as well as their representation of professional affiliations different from those of the principal speakers. The legislative and executive presentations will be discussed by an industrialist (chairman of the board, Xerox Corporation), and by an academician (chairman of Health Administration, Temple University).



Senator Edward Kennedy at legislative hearings on his health bill. [Lee Goff, New York City]

The AMA and insurance presentations will be commented on by those who have had experience with prepaid medical care in Columbia and Baltimore, Maryland (Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions), and in California (Kaiser Permanente Medical Group).

The program is a three-participant affair: (i) principal speakers; (ii) prepared discussants; and (iii) ad hoc discussants from the floor. The exchange of viewpoints is considered as important as the expression of positions, and the audience is encouraged to participate.

The two principal papers in the morning session on 28 December are: "Senator Kennedy's health bill" by Stanley Jones and Philip Caper (staff members of U.S. Senate Health Subcommittee); "The Administration's approach to delivery of national health care" by John S. Zapp (deputy assistant secretary for Health Manpower, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare). Discussants are: Charles P. Hall (professor and chairman, Department of Health Administration, Temple University) and Joseph Wilson (chairman of the board, Xerox Corporation).

The two principal papers in the afternoon session are: "American Medical Association's approach to national health care" by Paul S. Friedman (member of AMA Council on Legislation); "American insurance industry's approach to national health care" by J. Henry Smith (president, Equitable Life Assurance Society). Discussants, who will also present their respective experience with prepaid medical care are: Robert J. Blendon (assistant director, Office of Health Care Program, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore) and Robert Feldman (project chief, Multiphasic Program, Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, Oakland).

GEORGE K. CHACKO

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The AAAS will produce a 1-hour television special each night of the Philadelphia meeting. The five-program series—Science '71: A Report to the Nation—will be broadcast in color over the Public Broadcasting System. Executive producer of the series is David Prowitt, National Educational Television's Washington bureau chief and an award-winning science reporter. Newspapers will announce the time schedule for the series on local educational television stations.