Support for DeVita

The following letter to Richard H. Schweiker, Secretary of Health and Human Services, was written in support of Vincent DeVita, Director of the National Cancer Institute, in response to recent press reports. It was signed by 90 physicians and scientists.

We, the undersigned directors and heads of the research laboratories and clinics of the National Cancer Institute with sustained professional contact with Dr. Vincent DeVita, the Director of the National Cancer Institute, are dismayed by the impressions reflected in the press following the recent hearings of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

Dr. DeVita served as Acting Director from January 1980 until July 1980, when he was appointed Director of the National Cancer Institute. In this short period of time he has already managed to reorganize ongoing research programs by strengthening those which were most innovative, dismantling those with less promise, and redistributing personnel and resources to take best advantage of promising avenues of research. These changes restored a sense of purpose, boosted morale, and created an environment more conducive to research and clinical progress than has been evident in many, many years.

He has proved to be an excellent manager of scientists and scientific resources, and above all, a dynamic leader. We feel confident that the national scientific community in the areas of cancer research and treatment view Dr. DeVita with the same high regard. Dr. DeVita's personal contributions in the area of cancer treatment can hardly be overstated. He was one of the pioneers in developing protocols which can now be credited with saving thousands of lives.

He understands and effectively implements the needs of basic cancer research and its clinical applications, and has the conviction and motivation to recognize and move programs of greatest promise for the cancer patient. He is, in our opinion, an extremely effective director of the National Cancer Institute.

CHIEFS OF LABORATORIES AND CLINICS
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Erratum: The description of the cable-stayed bridge design by Willard Bascom (Letters, 19 June, p. 1339) should have read "the cables were suspended from a series of aluminum towers mounted on tension-leg platforms in water to *2200*-foot depths. Some *30* towers would have been required. . . .

Erratum: In "New A-bomb data shown to radiation experts" (News and Comment, 19 June, p. 1365), the reference to reduced gamma ray doses due to building shielding should have read "by a factor of 1.6," not "by a little more than 60 percent."

Erratum: In the report "Induction of hemoglobin accumulation in human K562 cells by hemin is reversible" by A. Dean *et al.* (24 Apr., p. 459), the second sentence in the legend for figure 1 should have read: "A stock solution of 600 μM hemin was prepared by adding 0.3 ml of 1*N* NaOH to 19.56 mg of hemin, and then adding 0.3 ml of 0.5*M* tris base, 2.5 ml of cell growth medium, and 0.35 ml of 1*N* HCl, and then diluting to a final volume of 50 ml with cell growth medium."