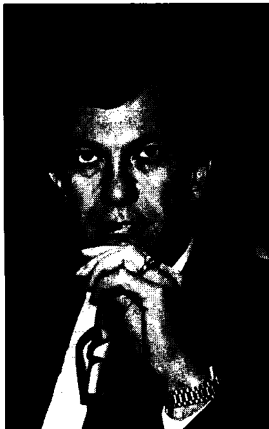


# Leadership Shuffle at Sloan Kettering

A conflict over management style prompted the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center to remove its chief medical officer—Vincent DeVita Jr., former director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)—from the top post in its hospital on 22 May. He was given a new position, the Benno C. Schmidt chair in clinical oncology, and he will remain on the staff of the hospital, which he directed for the past two and a half years.

Ken Heinen



Vincent DeVita Jr.

Many cancer researchers were taken aback when they learned of DeVita's reassignment last week after it was reported in *The New York Times*. Said Gregory Curt, director of the NCI's clinical program, "People here were surprised." But staffers at Sloan Kettering were not. One who asked to remain anonymous said tensions had been growing between DeVita and medical department chiefs, and discussions about a change of leadership had been going on "for a few months" before it occurred.

DeVita's assertive leadership—although it led to "superb research" during his 8-year directorship of the NCI, according to I. Bernard Weinstein of Columbia University—apparently did not mesh with the more democratic traditions of Sloan Kettering. "We have a consensual decision-making process here," said one member of the staff. "The department chairmen are consulted and reach agreement" before major actions are taken. According to several sources, DeVita's abrasive management style often put him at loggerheads with the staff.

Neither DeVita nor Paul Marks, the chief executive officer of the 107-year-old institution, would discuss the change of leadership. But Sloan Kettering's public affairs office read a statement in which Marks and the board of managers praised DeVita for the "outstanding leadership he has provided" since 1988, particularly for "strengthening the programs for clinical research and implementing important new initiatives in the area of clinical trials." The statement says DeVita "resigned...so that he

may pursue his interests in clinical research, primarily clinical trial development and implementation, without the added administrative responsibilities that were required as physician-in-chief."

DeVita is known for his pioneering work on chemotherapy for Hodgkin's disease, for example. He is said to be interested in developing new, more rigorous clinical tests of other cancer therapies. At present, Sloan

## A Venus-year of Mapping

"We've covered a lot of real estate since...we last talked to you," space scientist Gordon Pettengill of Massachusetts Institute of Technology told reporters last week. He was referring not to any earth-bound pursuit but to the spacecraft Magellan, which just completed the first phase of its radar survey of Venus, covering virtually all the key features on the planet's surface. These pictures of Venus' Golubkina crater illustrate his point. On the left, an image based on Magellan data taken at the beginning of last August shows only part of the crater in crisp detail (the rest of the picture is old, low-resolution data from a Soviet spacecraft); on the right, data harvested in April reveal the complete crater, which spans 21 miles, in unprecedented detail.

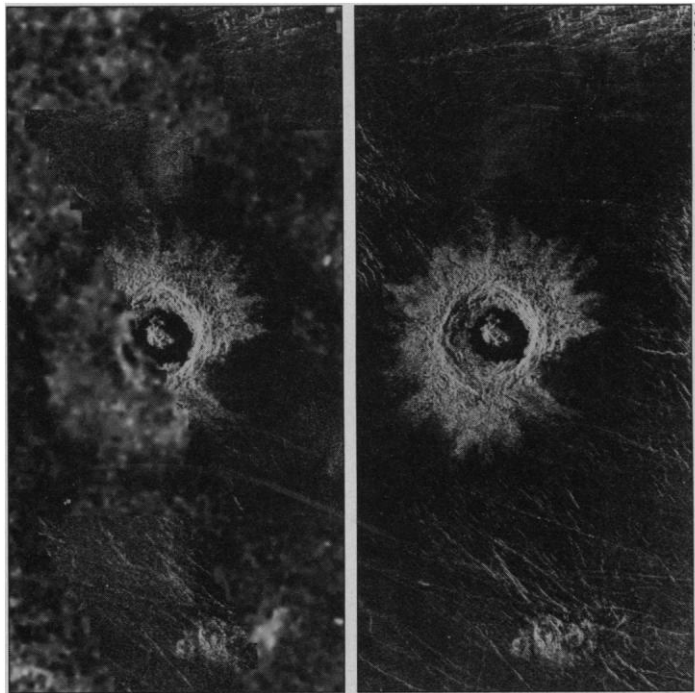
In its first 243-day cycle of mapping (one Venus-year), Magellan surveyed 84% percent of Venus' surface, uncovering many surprises with its nearly 100-meter resolution. The biggest, according to chief project scientist Stephen Saunders, is that no feature of the surface seems to be more than 1 billion years old. Probable explanations include volcanic activity that resurfaced the planet in one fell swoop several hundred million years ago or a series of volcanic outbursts that had the same effect over a longer period of time. Another big surprise is the absence of any evidence for

Kettering spends about one-quarter of its \$500 million budget on research of this kind, and Marks said in a prepared statement last week that the leadership change would not diminish the research program. On the contrary, the focus on clinical trials will be "further expanded and enhanced."

Meanwhile, the duties of running the hospital will be divided between Thomas J. Fahey Jr., the deputy physician-in-chief, and Murray Brennan, chairman of surgery. The center has not yet drawn up a list of candidates to replace DeVita, nor has it organized a search committee. ■ ELIOT MARSHALL

plate tectonics (see *Science*, 12 April, p. 213).

Now the spacecraft has embarked on a second cycle of mapping, which will last until 15 January. This should fill in gaps (particularly around the South Pole), increasing the surface coverage to 95%, and add detail to areas previously covered. The resulting flurry of data will keep Magellan scientists engaged for quite some time. Ultimately, scientists hope that Venus, which they think resembles



**Before and after.** The best view of Venus' Golubkina crater in August (left); the best view now (right).

Earth when it was very young, will shed light on our own past. "On Earth we're left holding the last chapter [of our history]," said team member James Head of Brown University. "Venus may... fill in the missing pieces." Scientists will also try to catch a volcano in action, something the first mapping did not reveal. ■ ROBERT LANGRETH