Hyperbaric Oxygen and Radiation Therapy of Cancer

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Editor
JEROME M. VAETH, San Francisco, Calif.

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Hyperbaric Oxygen and
Radiation Therapy of Cancer

Proceedings of the First Annual
San Francisco Cancer Symposium

With 68 Figures and 32 Tables

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Foreword

On November 12 and 13, 1965, Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center hosted the First Annual San Francisco Cancer Symposium to commemorate the opening of the Claire Zellerbach Saroni Memorial Tumor Institute of San Francisco. Specialists from throughout the world met to review the past contributions of hyperbaric oxygen radiation therapy in cancer treatment and to assess the present and future status of this modality. The quality of scientific presentations and the worldwide interest in the subject prompted us to publish the Symposium Proceedings. We are grateful to the Zellerbach family for sponsoring the Symposium and to the American Cancer Society for assistance in the initial publication of the Proceedings.

Because requests for the limited numbers of copies of the Proceedings exceeded our supply, we have re-edited the Proceedings and where individual authors wished to revise or update their material, this has taken place.

Jerome M. Vaeth, M.D.

Director, Claire Zellerbach
Saroni Memorial Tumor Institute
of San Francisco
To Remember
Claire Zellerbach Saroni

The new Tumor Institute is dedicated to the memory of the late Claire Zellerbach Saroni, who passed away on November 13, 1962. Mrs. Saroni was a member of one of the West's great families. The daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Isadore Zellerbach was the sister of the late J. D. Zellerbach, former U.S. Ambassador to Italy, and of Harold L. Zellerbach, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, and President of the San Francisco Art Commission. Her children are Mrs. D. Stephen Coney, Alfred B. Saroni, Jr. and Louis Saroni II.

Well known in San Francisco for her many philanthropies, Claire Saroni was a loyal and devoted friend and supporter of Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center. She served as a member of the Board of Directors from 1940 to 1953, and again from 1956 until her death in 1962. She also was an active member of the Mount Zion Women’s Auxiliary and worked as a volunteer in the hospital.

The Tumor Institute was made possible originally because of the bequest left to Mount Zion by Claire Saroni and generous gifts from members of her family, who wished to create through this Institute a fitting and lasting memorial to her.

The Saroni Tumor Institute

The Claire Zellerbach Saroni Memorial Tumor Institute of San Francisco represents Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center’s contribution to the community and the nation in the field of cancer treatment and research. It culminates several years of planning and building, which would not have been possible without generous private donations and matching governmental funds. Made possible originally because of the bequest left to Mount Zion by the late Claire Zellerbach Saroni and the generosity of her family, the one-million-dollar Saroni Tumor Institute also has been the recipient of a number of gifts from organizations such as the Zellerbach Family Fund; the Max C. Fleischmann Foundation of Nevada; the National and California departments of the Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars; the Damon Runyon Fund; and the Mount Zion Women’s Auxiliary Leukemia Project, whose yearly baseball benefits enabled the purchase of the Institute’s new Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber. In addition, the Institute received a sizeable grant in Federal and State Hill-Harris matching funds. Built within the Mount Zion
Hospital and Medical Center complex, in order to utilize the advantage of a large Medical Center, the Saroni Tumor Institute is staffed by three Board-certified radiation therapists, two radiological physicists, a radiobiologist and consultative specialists in both basic and clinical fields. It also includes special supportive technical staff.

Opening Remarks

JUAN DEL REGATO
Director, Penrose Cancer Hospital, Colorado Springs, Col.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with tender personal satisfaction that I return to San Francisco today to admire the realization of a pragmatic idea with the dedication of the Claire Zellerbach Saroni Memorial Tumor Institute. For several years and on several occasions I came here and talked with those interested in this realization, mostly in terms of images, for the bricks were not yet here. It is, indeed, a great satisfaction that the idea has taken form and I am honored to be asked to introduce the First Annual Cancer Symposium, sponsored by The Claire Zellerbach Saroni Tumor Institute.

The Symposium itself introduces one of the various activities to which this institution is dedicated, one of its laws of faith. This institution offers to its patients the comforting assurance of its interest and its competence in a soothing atmosphere. It offers to the staff of Mount Zion Hospital capable professional cooperation and consultation, without depriving the physicians of their professional relationship to the patient and family. The institution has been equipped with the very best of radiotherapeutic machinery but, better than that, even before the equipment was here, the brains behind the equipment had been secured. The skills of Dr. Vaeth, Dr. Jerold Green, Mary Lou Meurk, and the capable, friendly, understanding personnel of the institute are a more solid foundation to the operation of the institution than the massive betatron. The organization of the institute, its records, its training and research programs, attest to the excellence of the work in the field of cancer. San Francisco is richer for this institution that shall contribute
to its medical reputation. The point to be strongly emphasized is that
this institution is not separate, neither physically nor professionally, from
the host of excellent practitioners of the staff of the Mount Zion Hospital
which will become an integral part of the work and of its accomplishments.
But beyond the dedication of the institution to this task of
diagnosis and treatment of cancer, the Claire Zellerbach Saroni Memorial
Tumor Institute has already declared its commitments to education of
young physicians in the disciplines that are involved in the field of cancer.
This institution has already set the proper primary circumstances that
give strength to the training of young therapeutic radiologists, tumor
pathologists, and cancer surgeons. It is only when these future specialists
are provided with an integrated atmosphere of cancer training that the
material facilities permit an understanding of the bewildering and
various neoplastic diseases that are grouped under the name of cancer.
But any work done on behalf of the suffering patient could become
routine and the education offered would be detached, if all this were not
done in the light of research. The passionate search for new avenues,
better methods, even the framing of new questions for which there are
no answers, strengthens the convictions of those who cannot be satisfied
with the present and wish for a better future. Ever since the dawn of
radiotherapy of cancer, a search was initiated for a method of strengthening
the effects of radiation, for definition of the beam, for radiosensitization
of the tissues. Oxygen has now been found to be the only available
sensitizer and this Symposium will reveal to us the painstaking efforts
of the work done in this field in England, Canada, Australia, and the
United States. May this first San Francisco Cancer Symposium become
a model for a long series of other successful similar symposia and may
they become a perennial tribute for the generous lady whose name this
institute honors - Claire Zellerbach Saroni.