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ACTIVITIES OF THE REGISTRY OF COMPARATIVE PATHOLOGY

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The Registry of Comparative Pathology (RCP) is one of the newer registries of the American Registry of Pathology that are housed in the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), Washington, D.C. 20305. The RCP was established in 1966 and is jointly operated by the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and the Universities Associated for Research and Education in Pathology, Inc. (UAREP). Support for the Registry's activities is provided through a grant from the Division of Research Facilities and Resources, National Institutes of Health.

Actually, the idea of the RCP was conceived much earlier by the late Dr. Hans Schlumberger, and its development continued in 1959 through the Committee on Pathology of the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council. In 1961, the National Institutes of Health sponsored a workshop conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to discuss training in comparative pathology. Summaries of this meeting are given in the following:

Jones, T. C.: Preparation for Research in Veterinary and Comparative Pathology. *J.A.V.M.A.* 144: 1105-1112, 1964.

Stowell, R. E.: Training in Comparative Pathology. *Lab. Invest.* 12: 830-845, 1963.

Ratcliffe, H. L.: Comparative Pathology: An Opportunity for Biologists. *Science* 137: 550-552, 1962.

The Registry is fortunate to have as its principal investigator Dr. R. W. Wissler, Chairman, Department of Pathology, University of Chicago, who has a strong interest in comparative pathology. Much of the early organizational planning of the Registry and its functions was conducted by the Registrar. The AFIP was selected as the site of operation because of its long experience in serving a similar role in the field of human pathology. It was also selected because of the broad competency of the AFIP staff, the availability of its computer system and multilith facilities, and the presence of related registries.

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The objectives of the Registry are to provide a national resource center for the purposes of consultation assistance to scientists working in the broad field of comparative pathology and of obtaining pathologic materials for research and education. Material is being collected from a wide range of species, including nonhuman primates; domestic, laboratory, wild and zoo animals; birds, fish, and, to a limited extent, invertebrates.

Accessioned material is recorded in automatic data-processing facilities for retrieval. This material is utilized in the preparation of microscopic-slide sets and syllabi, lantern-slide sets, lectures, exhibits, and fascicles. An example is a syllabus entitled "Diseases of Nonhuman Primates," which was completed last year. It contains 44 disease entities and consists of microscopic slides, lantern slides, and a written description of each entity. Syllabi on avian diseases and diseases of fish are in preparation.

The Registry, in conjunction with the National Cancer Institute, sponsored a 2-day international symposium on Comparative Morphology of Hematopoietic Neoplasms at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in March 1968. Hematopoietic neoplasms in a wide range of species were discussed and compared. Proceedings of this symposium will appear in National Cancer Institute Monograph 32, which will be available this summer. Similar symposia of this type are planned for the future.

Two excellent exhibits, "Spontaneous Hematopoietic Neoplasms in Animals" and "Comparative Ophthalmic Pathology," were completed last year and were shown at various scientific meetings.

In 1968 the Board of Directors of UAREP, with the concurrence of the AFIP, recommended that an Advisory Committee be formed to provide consultation for the continued directional planning of both the scientific and educational aspects of the Registry. The members of this committee are: R. W. Wissler, M.D., *University of Chicago, Chairman*; K. Benirschke, M.D., *Dartmouth College*; D. B. Hackel, M.D., *Duke University*; T. C. Jones, D.V.M., *Harvard University*; R. W. Leader, D.V.M., *Rockefeller University*; and R. A. Squire, D.V.M., *Johns Hopkins University*. One of their major recommendations was the establishment by the Registry of a catalog of animal models for human diseases.

For productivity the Registry depends upon the generosity and willingness of scientists to take time to prepare and submit specimens from man and all animals that are of comparative interest and have value for research and educational purposes. For further information on this, contributors may contact the Registry by writing to: THE DIRECTOR, ARMED FORCES INSTITUTE OF PATHOLOGY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20305, ATTN: REGISTRY OF COMPARATIVE PATHOLOGY.

Instructions for submitting material to the Registry are:

1. Data should include the contributor's name and an accession number if applicable, the patient's name and age (age, sex, and species for animals), pertinent clinical findings, gross description, microscopic

slides, paraffin blocks or several unstained slides, fixed tissues when available, and x-rays or clinical photographs when pertinent. X-rays and lantern slides will be copied and promptly returned when requested.

2. Microscopic slides and paraffin blocks should be forwarded in tube mailers to prevent crushing. Tissues should be completely fixed in one part of 37-40 percent formaldehyde to nine parts of water, using nine volumes of fixative for each volume of tissue. Since glass bottles do not survive shipment, fixed tissues should be placed in plastic bags with gauze pledgets soaked in fixative solution. Bags may be sealed by taping, stapling, or heat and forwarded in cartons.

3. Although any list of desirable specimens would be necessarily incomplete, any and all tumors of nonhuman primates are of considerable interest, as are the following examples of disease processes in any animal species: arthritic diseases, disorders associated with or suspected of being auto-immune reactions, diseases with prolonged incubation periods, heritable imperfections in defense mechanisms, and diseases of the circulatory system. Good material from free-living mammals on any part of the globe and from fish and wild birds may have great value.

Publications or training aids resulting from the submitted materials are prepared with an acknowledgment of the contributor. We believe you will find a great deal of personal satisfaction in being an active contributor to a national resource center, thus allowing other investigators to share your contributions.
