



2002-03

Certification number 41

I, Sylvia Tubéns-Castillo, Executive Secretary of the Academic Senate of the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey, CERTIFY:

That the Academic Senate, in its ordinary meeting held on Thursday, November 21, 2002, considered a communication submitted by Academic Senator Edwin Vázquez, related to the Cornelius P. Rhoads award given by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

After the corresponding deliberations, the Senate unanimously approved the following

RESOLUTION:

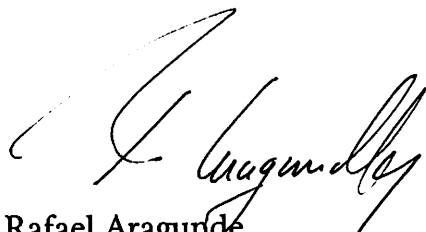
The Academic Senate of the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey asks the American Association for Cancer Research that it forever eliminate the Cornelius P. Rhoads award, given annually since 1980, for his criminal acts and his racist attitude against the Puerto Rican people. This petition is based on the following facts concerning Colonel Rhoads:

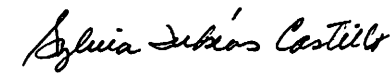
1. Admitted killing various Puerto Ricans and injecting others with cancer cells. He also referred to Puerto Rican as "the dirtiest, laziest, most degenerate and thievish race of men ever inhabiting this sphere", among other things (see attachment 1).
2. Advocated for the use of human beings to inject them with cancer cells and admitted that this took place in the laboratories at Sloan-Kettering Memorial Center in New York (Antimetabolites and Cancer, 1955, American Association for the Advancement of Science. See attachment 2)

3. Admitted his participation in the development of chemical and possibly biological weapons for warfare (see attachment 3).
4. His studies on tropical sprue in Puerto Rico were not performed for the betterment of the health of Puerto Ricans but were part of a military study whose results would be used in warfare (see attachment 4, a document recently declassified by the Department of Defense).

Copy of this certification will be sent to all the Academic Senates of the University of Puerto Rico campuses, the Board of Trustees, the American Association for Cancer Research, to the past recipients of the award and to Dr. Jay Katz, who has been designated by the AACR to investigate this case.

AND, FOR THE RECORD, I issue the current Certification in Cayey, Puerto Rico, on the twenty second of November of two thousand two.


Rafael Aragunde
Chancellor and President
of the Academic Senate


Sylvia Tubéns-Castillo
Executive Secretary





UNIVERSIDAD DE PUERTO RICO EN CAYEY

Cayey, Puerto Rico 00736

Senado Académico

2002-03

Certificación número 41

Yo, Sylvia Tubéns Castillo, Secretaria Ejecutiva del Senado Académico de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey, CERTIFICO:

Que el Senado Académico, en su reunión ordinaria del jueves 21 de noviembre de 2002, tuvo ante su consideración una **comunicación del Sen. Edwin Vázquez, relacionada con el Premio Cornelius P. Rhoads que otorga la American Association for Cancer Research.**

Luego de la exposición de rigor, el Senado aprobó por unanimidad la siguiente

RESOLUCIÓN:

El Senado Académico de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey solicita a la "American Association for Cancer Research" que elimine para siempre el premio Cornelius P. Rhoads, que otorga anualmente desde 1980, por sus actos criminales y su actitud racista contra el pueblo puertorriqueño. Esta petición está basada en los siguientes hechos sobre el coronel Rhoads:

1. Admitió haber asesinado a varios puertorriqueños alegando que les inyectó células cancerosas y se refirió a ellos como "la raza más sucia, vaga, degenerada y malvada que jamás haya habitado esta esfera", entre otras cosas (anejo 1).
2. Abogó por el uso de seres humanos para inyectarles células cancerosas y admitió que esto se llevó a cabo en sus laboratorios en el Instituto Sloan-Kettering en New York (Antimetabolites and Cancer, 1955, American Association for the Advancement of Science, anejo 2).
3. Admitió su participación en el desarrollo de armas químicas y bacteriológicas para la guerra (anejo 3).

Tel.: (787) 263-5854 ó (787) 738-2161, exts. 2158, 2417, 2418 • Facsímil: (787) 263-6665

Patrono con Igualdad de Oportunidades en el Empleo M/M/V/I

Certificación 41 (2002-03)

Senado Académico

Página 2

4. Sus estudios sobre el "sprue" en Puerto Rico no eran para mejorar la salud de los puertorriqueños sino parte de un estudio militar cuyos resultados serían usados en la guerra (anexo 4, documento recientemente declasificado por el Departamento de la Defensa de los Estados Unidos).

Copia de esta Certificación se enviará a todos los Senados Académicos de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, a la Junta de Síndicos, a la "American Association for Cancer Research" (AACR), a los pasados recipientes del premio y al Dr. Jay Katz, quien ha sido designado por la AACR para investigar este caso.

Y, PARA QUE ASÍ CONSTE, expido la presente Certificación en Cayey, Puerto Rico, el día veintidós de noviembre de dos mil dos.

Sylvia Tubéns Castillo
Sylvia Tubéns Castillo
Secretaria Ejecutiva

Vo. Bo.

Rafael Aragunde
Rafael Aragunde
Rector y Presidente
Senado Académico



Dear Firdi:

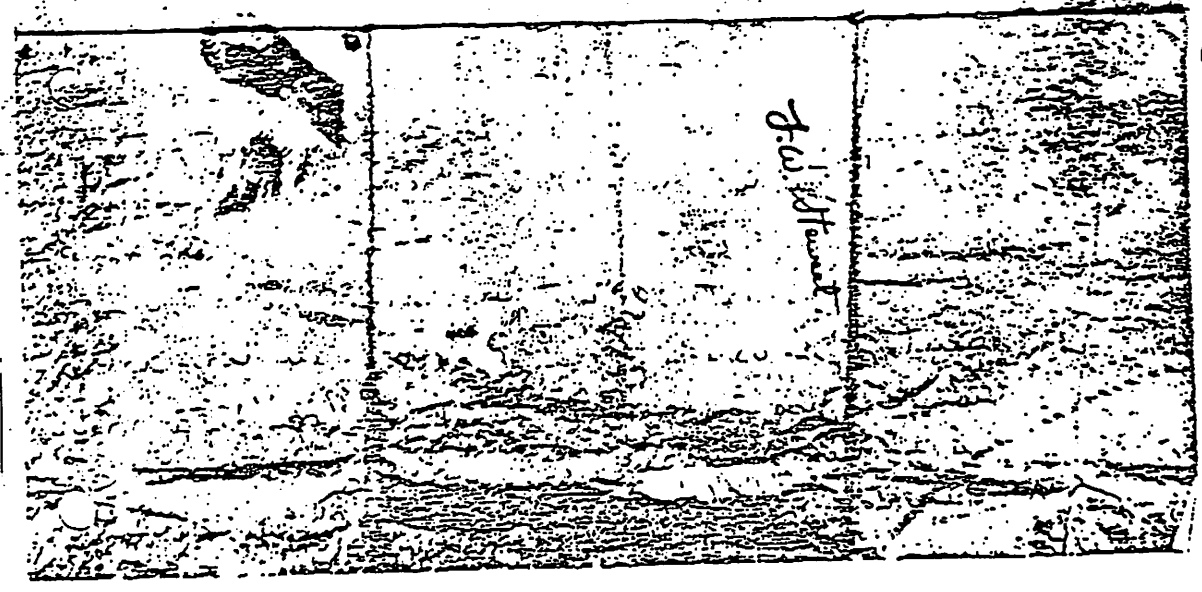
The more I think about the Larry Smith appointment the more disgusted I get. Have you heard any reason advanced for it? It certainly is odd that a man out with the entire Boston group, fired by Wolbach and as far as I know, absolutely devoid of any scientific reputation, should be given the place. There is something wrong somewhere, probably with our point of view.

The situation is settled in Boston. Park and Key are to run the laboratory together and either Kenneth or Max Madon to be assistant; the chief to stay on. As far as I can see, the chances of my getting a job in the next ten years are absolutely nil. One is certainly not encouraged to attempt scientific advances when it is a handicap, rather than an aid to advancement. I can get a damn fine job here and am tempted to take it. It would be ideal except for the Porto Ricans - they are beyond doubt the dirtiest, laziest, most degenerate and thievish race of men ever inhabiting this sphere. It makes you sick to inhabit the same island with them. They are even lower than Italians. What the island needs is not public health work

but a total war or something to totally exterminate the
population. If weight can be saved. I have done
my best to further the process of extermination by killing
off and transplanting cancer into several mice.
The latter has not resulted in any fatalities so far.
The matter of consideration for the patient welfare plays
no role here - in fact all physicians take delight in the
abuse and torture of the unfortunate subjects.

Do let me know if you have any more news

Yours truly
Dietz



Antimetabolites and Cancer

A SYMPOSIUM PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 28-29, 1953
AT THE BOSTON MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Edited by
CORNELIUS P. RHOADS



A Publication of the
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
1515 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C.
1955

ANEJO 2

scribed the reaction of tissues to their presence. All these phenomena simulate in every respect local sepsis, bacteremia, and the tissue response to infection. The morphologic evidence, then, permits us, at least as an intellectual exercise and a guide to experiment, to regard the cancer cell as a foreign invader and to seek cure of disseminated cancer by its selective chemical destruction, exactly as we cure the disease while localized by its selective mechanical removal.

Furthermore, new evidence now fulfills for the cancer cell the second of Koch's postulates. Gey (Gey and Gey, 1936) reported, some years ago, the cultivation in glass of cells presumed to be derived from cancer of the human cervix. It is these cells, the ones called HeLa, which are yielding today the most effective medium for the cultivation of poliomyelitis virus. More recently, in our laboratories, the final proof of the neoplastic nature of cultivated human cancer cells *in vitro* has been achieved by Toolan (1953). Cancer tissue from the patient Fernandez was grown by the conventional roller tube method for many weeks and through many subcultures. These cells, so long in glass and so many generations removed from the original, grew vigorously when re-implanted into the donor. They were as characteristically neoplastic in this growth as when they were first removed. There can be no question, therefore, but that these are human cancer cells and, further, that they, when tested, were still characteristic biochemically, in so far as the rules of transplantation hold, of the particular individual concerned. One must, therefore, concede that, in this instance, the etiologic organisms, the Fernandez cancer cells, were cultivated successfully outside of the patient's body.

Finally, the third postulate for the cancer cell as an invading organism is fulfilled by Toolan's demonstration of the prolonged growth of human cancer in the experimental animal. By patient selection of neoplasms with high growth potential, handled by brilliant technical procedures, she has found at least two that are capable of indefinite propagation in the cortisone-treated rat or hamster. Their implants, originally minute, now proliferate so vigorously as to increase their bulk as much as 100-fold in a ten-day period and may metastasize widely before they invade on

the part of the heterologous host an immune reaction which leads to their disappearance.

The neoplastic cells of man can, then, now be demonstrated in the lesions they cause, can be grown in pure culture, and will, upon reinoculation in man or animal, evoke the original disease. The postulates of Koch have been complied with, in principle. The first requirement for the solution of a disease problem is the ability to reproduce the disorder regularly for experimental purposes. Clearly this has now been fulfilled for cancer.

Our second requirement for progress is a yardstick, an objective measure of change in the course of the disease by the experimental procedures undertaken. For some types of cancer certain of such measures have long been available. The effectiveness of feminization in the control of prostatic cancer became unquestionable when the elevated levels of acid phosphatase, which characterize that disease, were shown regularly to decrease under treatment (Huggins and Hodges, 1941).

Almost certainly the existing methods for the transient but useful control of leukemia were the sooner available because one can quickly evaluate possibly effective therapeutic agents by their ability to modify the number and kind of circulating abnormal leukocytes.

Recently a notable advance, the development of criteria of change for another and an important neoplasm, has been made in our laboratories by Pearson *et al.* (1953). He has employed the rate of calcium excretion in patients with osteolytic metastases from breast cancer as a measure of the effect of procedures on the progress of the disease. This index, which has proved to be a delicate one, permits definition of the great sensitivity of one type of breast cancer to stimulation by physiologic levels of estrogenic hormone and to restraint by the elimination of that stimulus.

Recently by this technique the administration of cortisone has been shown to restrain the growth of one type of osteolytic breast cancer in eight instances. This is, as far as we are aware, the first unequivocal demonstration of this effect. It suggests that cortisone therapy in properly selected patients may become an important addition to our useful procedures.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

November 3, 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

SUBJECT: Conversation with Dr. Cornelius P. Rhoads, Director,
Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, and
Director, Memorial Hospital

I called on Dr. Rhoads at 11:30 am Friday, November 3, by appointment and spent the balance of the day with him at the Institute at 410 East 68th Street, New York City. He read my precept and we discussed various matters related to it, but principally the meeting was of value to me in giving me an idea of the functioning of a privately supported research institution in the medical--biological field, which is also doing some Government supported work.

Dr. Rhoads is about 52 years old, and was originally a practicing physician. Early in his career he had tuberculosis, and while at Saranac decided to concentrate on research. He was associated with the Rockefeller Institute for some years. During World War II, after some work with the National Research Council and in the OSRD, he and members of his OSRD unit went into the chemical warfare service of the Army, in which he remained as a Colonel from 1943 to 1945.

He gave me some pamphlets and other literature which describe in some detail the organization and principal channels of attack of Sloan-Kettering Institute, and I will therefore not attempt to summarize them here. The Institute has a staff of about 300 individuals, including 100 significant research personnel, and 200 other staff members. The Institute connects with Memorial Hospital and the new city-owned Ewing Hospital, each of which has about 800 beds (or perhaps it is 800 beds for both combined?). Technically SKI is a subsidiary of Memorial Hospital. There is also a tie-in in operating arrangements with the nearby Cornell University Medical Center, New York Hospital, etc. Dr. Conant, Compton, Dr. Bronk, as well as Lewis Strauss and Alfred Sloan, are trustees of SKI. Lawrence Rockefeller has recently become President of Memorial Hospital, in which his family has long been interested, and which has a relatively large board, including Lewis Strauss. The family of Lewis Douglas, who is also on the board at Memorial, has been interested in that hospital for several generations, going back to Dr. James Douglas. I think that Archibald Douglas may also be on the Memorial Board at this time.

Sloan-Kettering is operating on an annual budget of \$1,600,000. Its only fixed income is \$300,000 per year from Alfred Sloan, which has been guaranteed for a continued five-year period. In addition there is a \$260,000 annual contract from the AEC, an annual grant of about \$300,000 from the American Cancer Society, and lesser sums from a variety of organizations including the Damon Runyon Fund, and individuals. Thus finances, while perhaps precarious, are a subject of constant concern to Dr. Rhoads.

Memorial Hospital has annual operating costs of about four million dollars against which it receives regular revenues of about \$3,400,000, leaving an annual deficit of about \$600,000, which is made up, apparently without much difficulty, by income from investments, miscellaneous revenues and bequests of various sorts.

SKI was announced in 1945 and began its activities after completion of its building in about 1947 or 1948. Alfred Sloan, of General Motors, gave two million dollars for the construction, and then as costs proved to be about \$3,200,000, made a further bequest of about a million dollars, or some such. In addition, he committed himself in 1945 for two million dollars for operating expenditures payable at the annual rate of \$200,000, with the idea that additional funds should be raised from others. As indicated above, he has ^{recently} ~~quarterly~~ increased the annual rate, and contemplates extending the time period.

Dr. Rhoads had a meeting at 3:30, and at that time I was taken on a tour of the building and its laboratories by his assistant, Miss Beverly Alexander, formerly of Randolph Macon and Memphis. Among others, I met Dr. Dobriner. The trip is best summarized by reference to the ~~Matter~~ ^{meeting}, but I must note the incidental intelligence she furnished to the effect that it costs 12¹/₂¢ per month to provide board and lodging for one mouse. Details of bookkeeping were not furnished. I also learned that Dr. Rhoads lives in a penthouse atop the Institute.

As indicated above, Dr. Rhoads is eager to obtain supporting grants because of the uncertainties of the Institute's sources of income. He pointed out that much of the work that is being directed toward ~~some~~ ^{chemical} research is closely related to chemical warfare and perhaps not so distant from biological warfare matters, and he spoke at some length of his chemical warfare experience and on the fact that some members of his present staff were with him in the ~~Chemical Warfare Service of the Army~~.

He told me that he has been invited to lunch by Fred Lawton, Director of the Bureau of the Budget on November 10. He said he does not know why he has been so invited, but thinks that Mrs. Lasker may have arranged it.

W.T.G.
William T. Golden

WTG/vc

Office of The Surgeon General
 Department of the Army
 24 April 1957. 0900 hrs.

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MEDCOM-MR

**SUBJECT: Proposed Expansion of Research
 Investigations at Puerto Rico**

1. **DISCUSSION.** Malnutrition and deficiency states observed in the civilian population of Puerto Rico present the opportunity for the accumulation of knowledge and experience concerning the care and treatment of individuals who have experienced severe traumatic wounds to the gastrointestinal tract that may be anticipated in the several types of warfare which may be encountered in the future. Inasmuch as these malnutrition deficiency states are not common in the areas in which considerable numbers of United States military forces are now stationed, it is desirable that the metabolic investigations be expanded in Puerto Rico in order to exploit the opportunity for studying individuals with sprue, by augmenting the Army Medical Service personnel now assigned to the Tropical Research Medical Laboratory. It is proposed that this research unit be based on Rodriguez Army Hospital, Puerto Rico as a Class II activity of the Office of The Surgeon General.

The proposed expansion would require the establishment of a Metabolic Ward of approximately 10 beds, an adjoining diet kitchen, as well as a chemistry and isotope laboratory, to be located at one of the presently vacant wards of Rodriguez Army Hospital. The cost of the alteration of the ward is estimated to be approximately \$50,000.00 and can be provided from Research and Development funds.

Providing the Caribbean Command and the Commanding Officer of Rodriguez Army Hospital are agreeable to these proposals, it is believed that discussions with Dean Hinman of the University of Puerto Rico should embrace the following points:

- a. From a legal viewpoint, it will be necessary to determine whether the University of Puerto Rico would be interested in a contractual arrangement whereby the University would agree to select from the Puerto Rican civilian population certain individuals with sprue and other nutritional or metabolic deficiency states for clinical and laboratory studies. Subsequent to the selection of these subjects, the University of Puerto Rico would provide these individuals with sprue to the medical personnel at Rodriguez Army Hospital. It is proposed that the University of Puerto Rico be reimbursed either on an actual cost basis or, if desired, on a basis of cost plus a reasonable profit.

October 5, 2002

To: Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D.
President
American Association for Cancer Research

Karen S. H. Antman, M.D.
President-Elect
American Association for Cancer Research

From: Edwin Vázquez, Ph.D.
Biology Department
University of Puerto Rico at Cayey
Cayey, Puerto Rico 00737
Tel. (787)-738-2161 X-2172
Fax (787)-738-6962
email: edwinvazquez@hotmail.com



CORNELIUS P. RHOADS AWARD

It has come to my attention that the American Association for Cancer Research awards every year the Cornelius P. Rhoads Scientific Achievement Award. I find it morally unacceptable that you confer an award named after a person whose work was inhuman and unethical. I urge you to stop awarding this distinction based on the following facts:

"...one of the most disturbing experiments was undertaken during the 1930's where a single pathologist undertook studies in which he knowingly infected his human subjects with cancer. This physician, Dr. Cornelius Rhoads of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Investigations, undertook his experiments with little concern for his patients. In fact, Dr. Rhoads' attitude about his subjects was chronicled in a letter which later served as the basis for a criminal investigation. With regard to the subjects and location of his experiments in Puerto Rico, Dr. Rhoads wrote:

"What the island needs is not public health work, but a tidal wave or something to totally exterminate the population."

(<http://home.earthlink.net/~bkonop/GermWarfare.html>)

"The Puerto Rican Cancer Experiment was undertaken by Dr. Cornelius Rhoads. Under the auspices of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Investigations, Rhoads purposely infected his subjects with cancer cells. Thirteen of the subjects died. When the experiment was uncovered, and in spite of Rhoads' written opinions that the Puerto Rican population should be eradicated, Rhoads went on to establish U.S. Army Biological Warfare facilities in Maryland, Utah, and Panama. He later was named to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and was at the heart of the recently revealed radiation experiments on prisoners, hospital patients, and soldiers."

(<http://www.greatdreams.com/biologics.html>)

The American Association for Cancer Research should not name an award after a person who represents everything that we, as scientists, stand against.

cc

Bayard D. Clarkson, M.D.

Treasurer

Head, Laboratory of Hematopoietic

Cell Kinetics - Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Waun Ki Hong, M.D.

Past President

Head, Division of Cancer Medicine

Chairman, Thoracic/Head & Neck Med. Onc.

UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Ctr.

Margaret Foti, Ph.D.

Chief Executive Officer

American Association for Cancer Research

Lic. Antonio Garcia-Padilla

President

University of Puerto Rico

Dr. Rafael Aragunde

Chancellor

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Inbox | Previous Page

From : "Edwin Vazquez" <edwinvazquez@hotmail.com>**To** : golub@genome.wi.mit.edu, lowe@cshl.edu, nikola@xray2.mskcc.org, kuriyan@uclink.berkeley.edu, dean@ncifcrf.gov, tjacks@mit.edu, cgreider@jhmi.edu, lander@genome.wi.mit.edu, roninson@uic.edu, thomas.curran@stjude.org, ejrobert@husc.harvard.edu, mulligan@rascal.med.harvard.edu, evans@salk.edu, vogelbe@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu, wcavenee@ucsd.edu, blumberp@dc37a.nci.nih.gov, lance@helix.nih.gov, charles_stiles@dfci.harvard.edu, stuart.aaronson@mssm.edu, yccheng@yale.edu, m-moore@ski.mskcc.org**Subject** : RHOADS AWARD RECIPIENTS**Date** : Sun, 27 Oct 2002 19:09:54 +0000October 27, 2002
Cayey, Puerto Rico

Dear colleague:

It is my duty as a scientist to inform you that the Puerto Rican scientific community, joined by various organizations, has demanded that the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) stop giving the Cornelius P. Rhoads award, of which you were a recipient. Our demand is based on the following facts, which have been well documented in the local press:

...one of the most disturbing experiments was undertaken during the 1930's where a single pathologist undertook studies in which he knowingly infected his human subjects with cancer. This physician, Dr. Cornelius Rhoads of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Investigations, undertook his experiments with little concern for his patients. In fact, Dr. Rhoads' attitude about his subjects was chronicled in a letter which later served as the basis for a criminal investigation. With regard to the subjects and location of his experiments in Puerto Rico, Dr. Rhoads wrote: "What the island needs is not public health work, but a tidal wave or something to totally exterminate the population." (<http://home.earthlink.net/~bkonop/GermWarfare.html>).

We value your contribution to cancer research and are well aware that you deserve recognition for your scientific achievements. However, given Dr. Rhoads genocidal acts against the Puerto Rican population, and in the name of all that science stands for, we urge you to renounce this shameful award. We also ask that you support our petition to the AACR to stop the award or to rename it after another scientist. Thank you.

Dr. Edwin Vázquez
Biology Department
University of Puerto Rico at Cayey
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RHOADS ADMITE SU PARTICIPACION EN DESARROLLO DE ARMAS QUÍMICAS Y BIOLÓGICAS

Por Edwin Vázquez, Ph.D., Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey

La mayoría de los puertorriqueños ya conoce sobre los actos genocidas del Dr. Cornelius P. Rhoads en nuestra patria. Sin embargo, me preocupa la descripción constante de Rhoads como un médico. Rhoads era un militar que tenía un grado de medicina. Y eso no es lo mismo. Él era coronel del ejército de los Estados Unidos y actuaba como tal. El Prof. Pedro Aponte Vázquez, quien ha realizado una investigación extensa sobre este individuo, lo expresó muy bien recientemente en una entrevista en el canal seis al señalar que cuando Rhoads estuvo en el Hospital Presbiteriano no estaba salvando vidas. Estaba llevando a cabo experimentos con seres humanos. De hecho, su interés era desarrollar armas de destrucción masiva. Así se lo admitió a William T. Golden, presidente de la "American Association for the Advancement of Science" el 7 de noviembre de 1950. Ese día Golden escribió sobre Rhoads unas palabras que quedarían para la posteridad y arrojarían luz sobre sus verdaderas intenciones:

"El Dr. Rhoads está ansioso por obtener fondos debido a la incertidumbre de las fuentes de ingreso del instituto. Él señaló que mucho del trabajo que está siendo dirigido hacia la investigación concisa está íntimamente relacionada a la guerra química y quizás no está muy lejos de los asuntos de guerra biológica. Además, habló ampliamente sobre su experiencia en el uso de químicos para la guerra y sobre el hecho de que algunos de los miembros de su equipo de trabajo actual estuvieron con él en el Servicio de Guerra Química del Ejército." (Accedido el 27 de octubre en http://archives.aaas.org/golden/doc.php?gold_id=80). De hecho, como ya todos saben, nos usó a los puertorriqueños como conejillos de Indias para una de las armas biológicas que estaba desarrollando: células cancerosas.

Por si esto no bastara, en su libro "Antimetabolites and Cancer", publicado por la "American Association for the Advancement of Science en 1955, Rhoads hace una escalofriante referencia a la inoculación de seres humanos con células cancerosas como uno de los métodos utilizables para el estudio de esta enfermedad. Nos dice Rhoads "Ahora se puede demostrar la presencia de células neoplásicas del hombre en las lesiones que causan, pueden ser sembradas en cultivos puros y pueden, una vez inoculadas en un hombre o un animal, causar la enfermedad original". Rhoads está citando aquí los famosos postulados de Robert Koch, el eminente bacteriólogo alemán del siglo 19, quien estableció las bases para el descubrimiento de los agentes etiológicos, esto es, causantes, de las enfermedades. La diferencia es que Koch usó animales: Rhoads usó seres humanos. De hecho, en el mismo libro él describe cómo en su laboratorio en el Instituto Sloan Kettering en New York le sacaron células cancerosas a un individuo de apellido Fernández, las crecieron por varias generaciones in vitro, o sea, fuera del paciente, y luego las reinyectaron en el desafortunado Fernández para comprobar que éstas células volvieron a crecer vigorosamente como células cancerosas. Este es el hombre en cuyo nombre la American Association for Cancer Research ha estado otorgando un premio desde el 1980.

Como parte de la campaña contra este premio, recientemente le escribí una carta a todos los recipientes de éste, instándolos a renunciar al mismo y a unirse a los esfuerzos de la comunidad académica de Puerto Rico y las distintas organizaciones que hemos formado un frente común para que se retire este premio. Hagámoslo en nombre de las víctimas del criminal que fue Cornelius Packard Rhoads.

Piden eliminación de premio que lleva nombre del doctor Rhoads

Por Anahí Lazarte Morales
alazarte@wrtu.org

La información publicada sobre un premio de la Asociación Americana para la Investigación del Cáncer (AACR) que lleva el nombre de Cornelius Rhoads, un científico que confesó haber matado y experimentado con puertorriqueños, provocó la indignación de sectores cívicos y científicos que han exigido su eliminación.

Con ese objetivo un profesor universitario se ha dado a la tarea de convocar a grupos cívicos en Estados Unidos.

El pasado 4 de octubre el profesor de biología de la Universidad de Puerto Rico en Cayey, Edwin Vázquez, envió una carta a la presidenta electa de la AACR, la doctora Karen Antman. En la misma informa sobre las acciones de Cornelius Rhoads y urge que se cancele el premio, que se otorga desde 1980.

Vázquez indicó que también enviará el mensaje a otros oficiales de la AACR, a la prensa de Estados Unidos y a grupos de acción cívica. "Estoy enviando una nueva carta, incluyendo a los que han sido parte de la Junta y a la Directora Ejecutiva, la doctora Margaret Foti. No he recibido ninguna respuesta. Por lo tanto estoy enviando copia de mi carta al New York Times, al diario La Prensa en Nueva York, y a otros grupos organizados de puertorriqueños para que ejerzan presión en los Estados Unidos".

Además planifica comunicarse con científicos que en el pasado ganaron el premio para que renuncien al mismo.

Varios sectores del país, como el Colegio de Médicos Cirujanos y el Congreso Nacional Hostosiano, han rechazado este premio y han exigido que se cambie el nombre, al igual que el Secretario de Estado, Ferndidad Mercado. Mientras, la Comisión de Salud de la Cámara de Representantes adelantó que considera presentar una resolución al respecto.

La AACR envió un comunicado en el que señala que "las acusaciones son alarmantes y repudiables", pero que primero deben "establecer la veracidad de las alegaciones antes de tomar alguna decisión". "Supongo que harán lo mismo que han hecho otras personas: tratar de pedir los documentos que se han liberado de todo lo que hizo este señor. Si ellos siguen con el premio, me gustaría que nos explicaran en qué consistió la investigación y cuán exhaustiva fue", expresó Vázquez.

Aunque que se cree que muchos de los documentos han sido destruidos, el biólogo sostuvo que hay suficiente información para erradicar el galardón. "En términos científicos, el hecho de haber utilizado humanos en la investigación es suficiente como para revocarlo".

Vázquez dijo que en Estados Unidos hay una larga historia de

experimentos con seres humanos. "Uno de los casos más documentados fue el estudio que se hizo en Alabama, donde se cogió grupos de negros y fueron expuestos a personas que tenían sífilis, y se les negó los tratamientos que había contra la época, solo para ver qué efecto tenía el desarrollo de la enfermedad a través de los años aun cuando había tratamientos disponibles".

"Hay un libro que se llama, The Plutonium Files, que detalla cómo se inyectó con radiación durante la Guerra Fría a muchos norteamericanos que no lo sabían, muchos de los cuales murieron", añadió Vázquez.

El profesor aseguró que si la AACR no retira el nombre de Rhoads organizará una protesta en la sede del organismo en Filadelfia. "Yo voy a seguir con esta lucha. Si no eliminan el premio para el próximo año, quiero organizar a un grupo de personas que vayan a protestar durante la entrega de los premios".

Cornelius Rhoads llegó a Puerto Rico en la década del treinta para realizar una investigación comisionada por la Fundación Rockefeller. En una carta personal admitió haber matado a ocho puertorriqueños y haber infectado a otros con cáncer. En la misiva dijo además, y citamos, "lo que la Isla necesita no es labor de salud pública, sino una marejada o algo que extermine totalmente la población". El texto fue hallado por su asistente de laboratorio, Luis Baldoni Martínez, quien firmó una declaración jurada.

Rhoads también ha sido señalado como uno de los autores de las torturas a las que fue sometido Pedro Albizu Campos. Pero en Estados Unidos, el científico es recordado por sus investigaciones en la lucha contra el cáncer.

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From : "Edwin Vazquez" <edwinvazquez@hotmail.com>
Subject : ADVERTENCIA SOBRE SUSPENSION RHOADS
Date : Wed, 06 Nov 2002 00:52:05 +0000

5 de noviembre de 2002
Cayey, Puerto Rico

Estimados colegas:

La carta que está circulando sobre la suspensión del premio Cornelius Rhoads recoge, en esencia, los puntos señalados en el comunicado de prensa original de la "American Association for Cancer Research" (AACR) enviado hace unas semanas. Representa, sin dudas, un triunfo para los puertorriqueños. Sin embargo, es un triunfo parcial. Lo que ha hecho la AACR es suspender el premio que sería otorgado en la convención del 2003. El premio no ha sido eliminado. La AACR está esperando los resultados de una investigación encomendada al Dr. Jay Katz, quien es además abogado. El Dr. Katz participó en el panel de 1973 que estudió el caso de los estudios sobre Sífilis en Tuskegee, Alabama, donde las autoridades médicas le negaron el tratamiento contra esta enfermedad a cientos de negros del sur de los Estados Unidos para ver cuál era el efecto de la enfermedad sin tratamiento (aún cuando éste estaba disponible). Participó también en la Comisión para el Estudio de los Experimentos de Radiación en Humanos, nombrada por Clinton en el 1994 y que Eileen Welsome había denunciado en su libro "The Plutonium Files" (Dell Publishing Company, Inc., última edición 2000) Los resultados de la investigación de esta Comisión están recogidos en el libro "The Human Radiation Experiments" (Oxford University Press, 1996). En este libro Katz expresa una opinión casi disidente a la del resto de la Comisión por entender que no fueron lo suficientemente rigurosos ni severos en sus definiciones de lo que constituye abuso de los derechos de un paciente, especialmente si éste no ha consentido a participar en el mismo.

Aún así, e independientemente del prestigio y aparente independencia de criterio del Dr. Katz, entiendo que no hace falta una investigación para que se elimine el premio. Tengo que recalcar lo siguiente:

- Rhoads ya admitió, a través de sus propios escritos en el libro "Antimetabolites and Cancer" (American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1995), el uso de seres humanos en sus estudios sobre el cáncer). Esto de por sí constituye motivo suficiente para que eliminen el premio. Tengo copia de este libro para aquellos que estén interesados en verlo. También pueden leer mi artículo al respecto en los archivos de Radio Universidad (<http://www.radiouniversidad.org>). Para esto no hace falta una investigación, sólo leer lo que Rhoads admite.
- La investigación que se debe hacer sobre Rhoads no debe ser para determinar si su conducta fue ética o no, como menciona la carta. La investigación debe ser para investigar si su conducta fue una criminal, como estamos alegando.
- El Prof. Pedro Aponte Vázquez ya llevó a cabo una investigación exhaustiva sobre lo que hizo Rhoads en Puerto Rico, cuando estuvo destacado en el Hospital Presbiteriano (Condado). Sus trabajos están resumidos en sus libros "Yo Acuso" y "Crónicas de un Encubrimiento".
- En la carta se nos pide que seamos pacientes. Este no es un asunto de paciencia, es uno de dignidad. Exhorto a todos que sigan enviando sus cartas de protesta a awards@aacr.org. No podemos ser pacientes por que son muchos los asuntos, después de lo del premio, que queremos traer a la luz pública sobre abusos y crímenes cometidos contra el pueblo puertorriqueño.

Los académicos tenemos una responsabilidad moral y social de estudiar estos casos criminales y darlos a la luz pública.

Edwin Vázquez, Ph.D.

AACR *American Association for Cancer Research*

MARGARET FOTI, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

November 13, 2002

Via E-Mail

Dr. Edwin Vazquez
edwinvazquez@hotmail.com

Re: Dr. Cornelius P. Rhoads

Dear Dr. Vazquez:

Thank you for your correspondence received via e-mail on November 6, 2002, concerning the steps taken by the American Association for Cancer Research, Inc. (AACR) in response to the allegations raised by you and others about the statements and activities of Dr. Cornelius Rhoads in Puerto Rico in 1931, while working there under the auspices of the Rockefeller Institute. As you know, for many years the AACR has conferred an award named for the late Dr. Rhoads to recognize superior work by a young cancer researcher. As a non-profit organization dedicated for nearly one hundred years to the mission of effectively treating and eventually curing cancer, we view with utmost seriousness the allegations made about Dr. Rhoads.

In the days since these allegations were brought to our attention, we have moved swiftly to put into place the appropriate measures for evaluating them and for acting on the results of that evaluation. Dr. Jay Katz, whose appointment was noted in the letter that you mentioned, brings outstanding qualifications to the task of providing an impartial assessment of the bioethical issues involved. Pending the conclusion of Dr. Katz's work and review and action by the AACR Board of Directors, we have suspended issuance of the AACR-Rhoads award for 2003.

While we appreciate your comments and suggestions, we are now in the process of pursuing all of the necessary and appropriate steps to answer the question now before us: what should be the future status of the Rhoads award? We are endeavoring to address that question as promptly as possible, consistent with affording due process to the late Dr. Rhoads. When the Board reached its disposition, I will be pleased to let you know.

Sincerely,



Margaret Foti, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer
American Association for Cancer Research, Inc.