February 10, 1992

GENERAL SESSION AND WELCOME

Rudy Fidelino, M.D.  Morton K. Schwartz, Ph.D.

DR. RODOLFO FIDELINO: It's a great privilege for me to welcome you all to the first forum ever sponsored by the American Academy of Insurance Medicine. This conference is designed solely to provide a forum for the expression of various points of view on topics described in the program. Under no circumstances shall it be used as a means for competing companies or firms to reach any understanding, expressed or implied, which restricts competition or in any way impairs the ability of such companies or firms to exercise independent business judgement regarding matters affecting competition. Our program today will be scientific sessions. The morning session will cover tumor marker basics, screening and epidemiology, and then the future of tumor markers. This afternoon will be clinical applications, monitoring, and then regulation. Tomorrow's session will be insurance industry-related discussion. A panel of speakers will present their views on tumor markers, followed by panel discussions. Our expectation will be that we will walk away from this meeting tomorrow with a better understanding of tumor markers.

I would like to thank the committee, who has helped me tremendously, the speakers, the moderators, and most especially the American Council of Life Insurance (ALCI) staff. This forum would not have been possible had I not had the good fortune of knowing Morton K. Schwartz, Ph.D. Dr. Schwartz is the Chairman of the Department of Clinical Chemistry and head of Laboratory of Applied and Diagnostic Biochemistry at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. He has very extensive experience in the evaluation of tumor markers. He has authored and co-authored more than 300 articles and a series of textbooks in Clinical Biochemical Analysis. He is the President of the International Society of Clinical Enzymology and has been the president of the American Academy of Clinical Chemistry and the National Registry in Clinical Chemistry. It gives me distinct pleasure to present to you Morton K. Schwartz, our honorary chairman for this forum. He'll be today's moderator for the scientific sessions, and he will be presenting two papers. And, he will be a panel discussser tomorrow.

DR. SCHWARTZ: Rudy, thank you very much. It's a great pleasure for me to be here and to take part in this program. Dr. Fidelino and I have spent many hours discussing what we thought would be a program of interest to all of you, and we think we have achieved that.

For more than 145 years materials have been measured and useful in the management of the patient with cancer. In 1846 Bence Jones described what has now become known as the Bence Jones protein; but it really wasn't until the invention of the radio immuno-assay in the late '50s that the term tumor marker came into use. The description of carcino-embryonic antigen gave it great impetus, and since then there have been a plethora of materials described as useful in the management of the cancer patient. Perhaps the greatest single impetus for screening has been an article on Prostate Specific Antigen, which appeared in the April 21st issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, which I shall refer to in my paper. But we will start our program with a discussion of tumor markers and their basics.

It is a great pleasure and a privilege for me to introduce to you Dr. Ronald Herberman who will discuss that topic with us. I've known Dr. Herberman for a number of years. I spent a very enjoyable period as a member of the immunodiagnosis study section of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) which Dr. Herberman ran with great skill and diligence at a time when tumor markers were appearing from all over, and he was trying to put some rhyme and reason into how they should be evaluated. Dr. Herberman spent many years with NCI, where he tried to establish the role of immunology in cancer, both the biology of cancer and the diagnosis of cancer. In 1985 Dr. Herberman left NCI and assumed the position of Director of the Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, which is an NCI designated comprehensive cancer center. Dr. Herberman has continued to carry out his research and to develop the Pittsburgh center as one of the leading comprehensive cancer centers in the country. He also has a Professorship in Medicine and Pathology at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, and is a staff physician at the Presbyterian University Hospital in Pittsburgh. It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Dr. Ronald Herberman.