

TRIBUTE TO DR. LESLIE S.
WRIGHT

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, the Rotary Club of Birmingham, AL honored Dr. Leslie S. Wright on Wednesday, January 25 for his outstanding leadership during the 1985-88 term as Rotary International's PolioPlus campaign chairman. During his 3-year tenure as leader of this worldwide fundraising effort, Dr. Wright inspired and motivated Rotarians around the globe to more than double their original goal of \$120 million. To date, Rotarians, companies, and individuals have donated over \$247 million to rid the world of polio by the year 2005.

Not only has the money been raised, but thousands of Rotarians have volunteered countless hours toward 1 billion children being immunized. Our own hemisphere has been declared free of polio and we are well on our way to seeing an end to this dreaded disease before the target date of 2005. Altogether, 141 countries are now polio free. It is a grand understatement to say that the response to Dr. Wright's dynamic leadership was overwhelming.

A native of Birmingham, Leslie S. Wright earned two degrees from the University of Louisville. He has been awarded honorary doctoral degrees by Auburn University, the University of Alabama, Troy State University, Samford University, and the University of Louisville. In 1983, he retired as president of Samford University, having served there since 1958. He remains the university's chancellor.

A Rotarian since 1947, Dr. Wright is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Birmingham. He has served Rotary International as district governor, International assembly instructor, committee member and chairman, and director. He has received the Citation for Meritorious Service and the Distinguished Service Award from the Rotary foundation for his support of its international humanitarian and educational programs. He was appointed a charter member of the Alabama State Ethics Commission in 1973, serving a total of 6 years. He was twice chairman of the commission.

Perhaps more than anyone else, Dr. Wright led the way in the drive to eradicate polio. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor and praise than was recently bestowed by his fellow Rotarians in Birmingham.

I applaud his vision and congratulate him on his many achievements.

THE UAB COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTER VACCINE TRIALS

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, as we know, a vaccine against cancer is one of the most eagerly sought objectives of medical science. Preclinical studies and patient trials of several potential vaccines are under way in the United States and Europe.

At the University of Alabama at Birmingham's [UAB] Comprehensive Can-

cer Center, at least four cancer vaccine strategies are being developed. Two of these approaches are now in clinical trials open to patients. The other two are in development in preclinical animal studies.

In 1993, the National Cancer Institute [NCI] and the UAB Cancer Center entered into a cooperative agreement which provided the center with \$1.5 million in support over 5 years to conduct a series of cancer vaccine trials.

The UAB Cancer Center is one of 27 such centers in the Nation that meets the high standards for comprehensive designation by the NCI, and it was one of the first eight so designated in 1973. Now in its 23d year of core grant support by the NCI, the UAB center was renewed this year for core funding over the next 5 years in the range of \$27 million. After meticulous review, the NCI also gave the center its highest priority rating based on program excellence.

The trials currently under way at UAB include those for breast cancer, colon cancer, and melanoma. The traditional concept of vaccination is to protect against future exposure to disease. Through work such as that being done at UAB, this concept is now being extended to include therapeutic applications to stimulate the immune system to kill tumor cells or infections like AIDS that already are established in the body.

I want to commend and congratulate the outstanding physicians and scientists at UAB who are working so hard to make the hope of a cancer vaccine a reality. I ask unanimous consent that an article detailing the colon cancer vaccine trials from the Birmingham Post-Herald be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

NEW VACCINE USED TO FIGHT COLON CANCER
(By John Staed)

Birmingham scientists successfully used a vaccine to get the body's immune system to fight colon cancer cells, marking the first time in the world the therapy has worked on human patients.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham researchers also reported plans to test a genetic vaccine for breast cancer in women. The vaccine causes the immune system to recognize and attack breast cancer tumor cells.

Until now, vaccines have normally been used to prevent diseases such as polio or mumps. This new approach by scientists enhances the body's immune system responses to existing diseases, said Dr. Albert LoBuglio, director of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center. LoBuglio spoke yesterday during a briefing on developments at the center and UAB's new Vaccine Center.

Among its projects, the vaccine center is examining ways to develop immunizations for bugs that cause pneumonia, to introduce vaccine doses in foods to lower immunization costs, and to find new vaccines for infectious diseases that are increasingly resistant to modern antibiotics.

In the colon cancer research, four patients who had colon cancer tumors surgically removed but who had a 60 percent chance of recurrence were treated over 16 weeks with the new vaccine.

"Two of the four have developed substantial immune responses," LoBuglio said.

"We're hoping it translates into an anti-tumor effect."

Colon cancer, or cancer of the large bowel and rectum, is expected to be diagnosed in 149,000 people this year in the United States. Together, the cancers of the colon and rectum are second only to lung cancer as a cause of cancer deaths.

About half of the colon cancers are cured by traditional treatments. The genetic treatments came after patients had gone through surgery alone or chemotherapy and surgery.

Dr. Robert Conry, co-investigator with LoBuglio, said if the vaccine proved successful through expanded studies, it might be available for clinical use after five years. But, he said, many more safety and reliability studies are needed.

Scientists' expanding knowledge of the body's immune system has been critical in development of the new treatments, Conry said. This information "is allowing us to, in a more informed way, develop vaccines for infectious disease as well as tumors," he said.

The vaccines could help doctors "harness the potential of the immune system" to treat cancers, Conry said. "Since these vaccines have little or no side effects, it will provide a welcome alternative to chemotherapy, which has significant side effects."

Cancer develops from the uncontrolled growth of cells within the body. Normally, the body's immune system would destroy disease, but cancer, because it developed from the body's own cells, goes undetected.

To trick the immune system into attacking the colon cancer cells, scientists enlisted the help of the virus used to eliminate smallpox, the vaccinia virus, and a protein called carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA).

Scientists found a way to use insect cells to safely produce the CEA protein.

The smallpox vaccine with the CEA protein genetically added to it triggers an immune response to malignant cells. The scientists' goal is to prevent recurrence of colon cancer by destroying remaining cancer cell "floaters" that are left circulating in the body after surgery.

In the breast cancer research, scientists will be using a genetically engineered vaccine to both produce an immune response to breast cancer cells and eradicate cancer cells.

One woman has been selected to soon begin the anti-tumor vaccine pilot study, and cancer center officials hope to include 30 women in the trial.

The women must have breast cancer that has spread, but that is responding to hormonal treatments, said Janis Zeanah, a spokeswoman for the cancer center.

Women will be injected with a vaccine containing the CEA protein. Scientists hope that it will cause the immune system to respond the same way as it has in the colon cancer test and destroy the cancerous cells.

MEXICAN LOAN GUARANTEE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, the New York Times report this morning about the American job losses that may result from Mexico's currency crisis is sobering.

The loss of jobs as the economy of Mexico responds to the peso devaluation is a price that will be paid by American workers and their families. The past 2 years of strong export sales to Mexico have helped create about 770,000 American jobs directly tied to that export market. When that market