

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE VICTORIAN CYTOLOGY (GYNAECOLOGICAL) SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1979.

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The last report of the Service referred to progress made in the development of a research programme and also to the commencement of work on the computerization of the many clerical activities associated with the screening programme. It is pleasing to report that significant further progress has been made in both these areas whilst the Service continues to maintain diagnostic activity at an extremely high level.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:

In October, 1978, Mr. Lindsay P. White joined the Board, succeeding the late Dr. Keith Bottomly, as one of the two representatives of the Board of Management of Prince Henry's Hospital. As Vice-President of the hospital board Mr. White's presence on the board of the Service should ensure continuation of the very harmonious relationship that has existed between the hospital and the Service since the latter's inception.

DIAGNOSTIC ACTIVITIES:

From July 1st, 1978, to June 30th, 1979, 232,066 cervical smears were examined. This brings the total number of specimens examined since the inception of the Service in January, 1965, to 2,276,833. The number of smears examined in the financial year under discussion represents an increase of only 883, or considerably less than one per cent., on that for the previous year.

Major abnormalities were detected in 454 women during the financial year. In the previous report the total number of major abnormalities detected since the inception of the Service was recorded as 6,914. A more detailed analysis of cases indicates that this figure should have been 6,907, the error being due in part to the double-counting of some women with recurrent disease. With this correction the total number of major abnormalities detected since the inception of the Service is 7,361. As in previous reports the term "major abnormalities" refers to all cases of invasive or established cancer and also those conditions that are believed to immediately precede the development of invasive cancer, namely, severe dysplasia and carcinoma-in-situ. It is again emphasized that the figures refer to numbers of patients, not numbers of smears, as an individual patient may have repeated smears for the investigation or confirmation of a cytological abnormality.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS:

The total operating expenditure of the Service for the year ending 30th June, 1979, was \$773,692. (This excludes a sum of \$21,536 for additional and replacement equipment). Compared to the previous year the operating expenditure increased by \$120,469 or 18.4 per cent. Salaries and wages absorbed \$558,938 or 72 per cent. of the total expenditure. This component of the operating expenditure represented an increase of \$36,155 or 7 per cent. on the previous year. This relatively small increase was a direct result of Wages Board determinations and National Wage increases.

As in previous years some measurement of the efficiency and economy of the Service can be gained by calculating the cost per specimen examined. This figure can be obtained by dividing the operating costs of the Service for the full financial year by the total number of specimens examined in this period. On this basis the cost per smear examined was \$3.33. This represents an increase of \$0.51 on the cost per smear for the previous financial year. Such an increase is inevitable, particularly in a labour intensive branch of laboratory medicine such as cytology. However, as in the past, the cost compares more than favourably with the current Commonwealth schedule fee of up to \$9.60 for a cervical smear performed in a private laboratory or up to \$16.00 if, as is more often the case, the combined fee is charged. This additional charge is made for hormonal assessment, an assessment provided by the Service whenever requested by the referring medical practitioner. The economic operation of the Service is a direct consequence of its efficient management and the large volume of material processed.

STAFF:

The medical staffing of the Service continues to be a cause of concern since at no time since the inception of the Service, has a stable medical staff structure been achieved. Cytopathology is a demanding, and at times somewhat tedious, branch of pathology and few pathologists are trained and/or skilled in the techniques. The policy of the Service has always been that all medical staff members must be pathologists trained and qualified in histopathology with additional training and expertise in the techniques of diagnostic cytology. It is believed that this ensures that the pathologist is best equipped to deal with the many difficult diagnostic problems generated by a mass screening programme. Such pathologists are in very limited supply in this country and indeed throughout the world.

As indicated in the previous report there are four pathologists employed within the Department of Anatomical Pathology of Prince Henry's Hospital who are also involved part-time in the Cytology Service, the total commitment being the equivalent of one and three quarter full-time pathologists. During the year two of these pathologists left the Service, Dr. J. F. Funder to retire and Dr. S. K. Tang to accept a position in another hospital. Early in 1979 Dr. J. K. Anson and Dr. P. Wallis joined the staff of Prince Henry's Hospital and each of these pathologists will be seconded in a half-time capacity to assist in the work of the Service. Both these pathologists will require additional training in cytopathology and this training will be provided by Drs. Drake and Medley.

In contrast, considerable stability has been achieved within the technical staff of the Service. Although cytotechnologists are in limited supply the involvement of the Service in training programmes, as discussed elsewhere in this report, has ensured a reasonable level of technical staffing. In addition, the employment of part-time technicians to carry out much of the initial screening of specimens continues to be most successful.

On June 30th, 1979, the staff consisted of:

Technical Staff:

Full-time: One (1) Computer Scientist.
Fifteen (15) Cytotechnologists.
Part-time: Twenty-eight (28) Cytotechnologists and Screeners.

Clerical Staff:

Full-time: Fifteen (15) Typists, Clerks, and Key-Punch Operators.
Part-time: Four (4) Typists and Clerks.

COMPUTERIZATION OF CLERICAL ACTIVITIES:

As indicated in the previous report a decision was made to acquire a Univac V77/600 mini-computer to form the basis of a system designed to computerise the many clerical activities of the Service. This computer was installed towards the end of 1978 and immediately used for staff training and the final stages in the development of the rather complex software necessary to provide a comprehensive on-line or interactive system. Inevitably difficulties were encountered initially but these now appear to have been overcome. Currently all "abnormal" cases, representing approximately 10 per cent. of the total work load, are being handled both by the computer and by the existing manual system. This parallel

processing will be continued until all difficulties, both apparent and potential, have been identified and overcome insofar as this is possible. Whilst this will delay the full implementation of the computer system it is believed that every effort must be made to ensure that no errors are made in processing the work of the Service. When the system is fully implemented it is envisaged that both the efficiency and economy of operation of the Service will be increased significantly.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

The research project initiated at the beginning of 1978 is proceeding satisfactorily with the financial support of the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. Initially a grant of \$25,000 was made by this body and a further grant of \$27,000 was received to support the project during 1979. As indicated in the report for the previous financial year, the project is concerned with the investigation of genetic and viral factors in the development of cancer of the uterine cervix. The virus currently under study is the herpes simplex type 2 - a virus closely related to that which causes the common "cold sore". The study is designed to determine whether certain women are predisposed genetically to react to the virus in a way that may lead to the development of cervical cancer. The study so far has been concerned predominantly with the examination of blood specimens. The white blood cells are being tested for genetic factors whilst the blood serum is being used to detect evidence of previous relevant viral infections. The blood specimens are being obtained from those women whose cervical smears have been interpreted by the Service and in whom evidence of cervical cancer, either invasive or pre-invasive, has been detected. The approach to the patient is, of course, made by way of their medical practitioner. The Cytology Service is very favourably placed to carry out a project of this sort having, as it does, access to a large proportion of the medical practitioners and of the women of Victoria. Ultimately the project should lead to a clearer understanding of the mechanisms in the development of cancer of the uterine cervix. It must be emphasized that a research activity of this sort is extremely important to the continued success of the Service providing, as it does, stimulus to the senior staff, both medical and technical.

SPACE:

Laboratory space is a major source of concern. The Service continues to be accommodated in the area of just over 5,000 square feet, initially occupied in March, 1969. It shares this space with the hospital

cytology department, an arrangement with considerable mutual benefit. At the time of occupying the new building the Service was receiving just over 100,000 smears and had a total staff of 43, both full and part-time, technical and clerical. As already indicated the Service this year has processed 232,066 smears and has a total staff of 63. Computerization of clerical activities, when completely implemented, will help to alleviate some of the space problems but will not overcome many of the difficulties that currently exist. Perhaps the greatest of these is the total lack of teaching areas, these areas being sacrificed to accommodate diagnostic and clerical activities.

TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

The combined laboratories of the Service and of the Prince Henry's Hospital Cytology department continue to maintain an active teaching programme. The major activity is the involvement in the courses for the Diploma of Medical Technology and the Bachelor of Applied Science, conducted by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. The subjects Cytology I and II, Anatomical Pathology I, and Advanced Clinical Cytology, are all entirely taught by staff of the combined Service and hospital laboratories. As already indicated, it is believed that this is a major factor in the stability of the technical staff of the Service. This year, for the first time, the Director of the Service conducted a short course in diagnostic cytology for trainee Anatomical Pathologists. Ad hoc courses of training continue to be given to many pathologists and technologists from Victoria and interstate.

ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

This report would not be complete without acknowledging the assistance that the Cytology Service receives from other organizations. As an occupant of Prince Henry's Hospital it is very dependent upon help from that institution and there is no doubt that much of the success of the Service has been due to the harmonious relationships that exist between the two institutions and the assistance, both direct and indirect, that is received from hospital staff members.

The Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria continues to provide support as it has done since the inception of the Service. As in previous years it has promoted the activities of the Service by way of its public and professional educational programmes. In addition, it is supporting, most generously, the research programme that is of such importance to the success of the Service.

The continued assistance of members of the Floral Group is gratefully acknowledged. This group of dedicated women spend many hours each week packing the kits of materials used by the medical practitioners throughout Victoria. They especially have been inconvenienced by the space problems already referred to but remain cheerful and efficient at all times. This help is greatly appreciated.

CONCLUSION:

The continued high level of diagnostic activity recorded in this report is testimony to the confidence the medical practitioners throughout Victoria have in the Victorian Cytology (Gynaecological) Service. That this confidence is justified is demonstrated by the results that have been achieved by the Service both in this, and previous years. During 1980 the results of the first fifteen years of activity of the Service will be analysed in detail. We are confident that this analysis will demonstrate still further the success of the Cytology Service in combating cervical cancer amongst the women of Victoria.

This report would not be complete without reference to the contribution of the Director of the laboratory, Dr. Michael Drake. Aply assisted by Dr. Gabriele Medley, he is the mainspring behind the dedication and enthusiasm of the entire staff referred to in the report.

That the Service has grown to its present proportions is very largely due to his untiring efforts, far sightedness and professional skill of a very high order.

Lance Townsend

CHAIRMAN
Sir Lance Townsend

W. A. Cross

MANAGER
W. A. Cross

DECLARATION BY THE SECRETARY

I, WILLIAM ALBERT CROSS Secretary of the Victorian Cytology
.....
(Gynaecological) Service do solemnly and sincerely declare that -

The accompanying Statement of Balances at 30th June, 1979,
Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Funds for the
year ended 30th June, 1979, are to the best of my knowledge and
belief correct.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing
the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of
Parliament rendering persons making a false declaration punishable
for wilful and corrupt perjury.

Victorian Cytology (Gynaecological) Service

W.A. Cross

MANAGER AND SECRETARY

Declared at Melbourne in the State of Victoria

this *27th* day of *September* 1979

Before me

[Signature]

A Commissioner for Taking Declarations and
Affidavits under the Evidence Act 1958.

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE

VICTORIAN CYTOLOGY (GYNAECOLOGICAL) SERVICE

We report that we have examined the accounting records and financial statements of the Victorian Cytology (Gynaecological) Service for the year ended 30th June, 1979.

The financial statements comprise Operating Account Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments and Statement of Funds for the year ended 30th June, 1979 and Statement of Balances at 30th June, 1979.

In our opinion -

1. the Operating Account Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments is properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the cash receipts and payments of the Service for the year ended 30th June, 1979.
2. the Statement of Balances and the Statement of Funds are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Service at 30th June, 1979 and the results of operations for the year ended on that date.
3. the accounting and other records of the Service examined by us have been properly maintained.

Parkhill Lithgow & Gibson

PARKHILL LITHGOW & GIBSON
Chartered Accountants

B. W. Lithgow
B. W. LITHGOW
Partner

Melbourne September, 1979

VICTORIAN CYTOLOGY (GYNAECOLOGICAL) SERVICE

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 30TH JUNE, 1979

LIABILITIES

<u>1978</u>		<u>1979</u>
10,817	Research Trust Fund	1,247
-	V77 600 Retention Account	6,000
196,839	Capital Funds	183,213
<u>(23,560)</u>	Accumulated Operating deficit	<u>(43,883)</u>
184,096		146,577
23,784	Bank Overdraft - operating account	43,289
307	Funds held in trust	624
<u>\$ 208,187</u>		<u>\$ 190,490</u>

ASSETS

Current Assets

20	Cash on Hand	30
10,817	Cash at Bank - Research Trust Account	1,247
-	- V77 Retention Account	6,000
<u>511</u>	Prepayments	-
11,348		7,277

Fixed Assets

169,213	Furniture and Equipment - at cost	169,213
27,626	Computer programming - at cost	14,000
<u>\$ 208,187</u>		<u>\$ 190,490</u>

Notes to and forming part of the accounts

1. Statement of Accounting Policy

The financial statements are compiled on a cash accounting basis.

2. Future Lease Commitment - Varian Computer

Total future lease instalments (\$3,365 X 56 MONTHS)	188,440
Residual Value	40,450

\$ 228,890

VICTORIAN CYTOLOGY (GYNAECOLOGICAL) SERVICE

STATEMENT OF FUNDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1979

<u>1978</u>		<u>1979</u>
\$		\$
	<u>RESEARCH TRUST FUND</u>	
-	Balance - 1st July, 1978	10,817
25,000	Grants received - Anti-Cancer Council	13,500
159	Other receipts - bank interest	157
<u>25,159</u>		<u>24,474</u>
5,898	Less Expenditure - salaries	15,587
8,444	- maintenance	<u>7,640</u>
<u>\$ 10,817</u>	<u>Balance - 30th June, 1979</u>	<u>\$ 1,247</u>
	 <u>V77 600 RETENTION FUND</u>	
-	Transfer from Operating Account	6,000
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>Balance - 30th June, 1979</u>	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
	 <u>FIXED ASSETS AND CAPITAL FUND</u>	
161,456	Balance - 1st July, 1978	196,839
21,757	Add - Capital Grant Received	-
13,626	Transfer from Operating Fund	-
-	Less - Reversal of prior year transfer	(13,626)
<u>\$ 196,839</u>	<u>Balance - 30th June, 1979</u>	<u>\$ 183,213</u>
	 <u>OPERATING FUND</u>	
\$(45,711)	Accumulated deficit - 1st July, 1978	\$(23,560)
35,777	Add Operating surplus (deficit)	(20,323)
<u>(9,934)</u>		<u>(43,883)</u>
13,626	Less Transfer to Capital Funds	-
<u>\$ (23,560)</u>	<u>Accumulated Deficit - 30th June, 1979</u>	<u>\$ (43,883)</u>

VICTORIAN CYTOLOGY (GYNAECOLOGICAL) SERVICE

OPERATING ACCOUNT - STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1979

1978		1979
\$	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	\$
689,000	Government Grants	753,169
-	Equipment Grant - Cost Sharing	21,536
-	Other Income - Bank Interest	200
<u>\$ 689,000</u>		<u>\$ 774,905</u>
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
	Salaries	
466,480	Non-Medical	491,018
56,303	Medical	67,920
4,371	Superannuation	4,244
	Administration Expenses	
13,814	Kit Stationery	3,277
4,366	Stationery	17,945
14,544	EDP Expenses	73,342
40,469	Postal Charges	52,603
16	Travel	312
8,490	Insurance	20,238
3,454	Telephone	3,830
7,012	Other	9,207
		180,754
629	Food Expenses	874
5,151	Domestic Charges	5,620
2,745	Fuel, Light and Power	2,900
7,519	Repairs & Maintenance	6,784
-	Replacements and Additional Equipment	21,536
	Medical & Surgical	
6,537	Internal	12,761
11,323	External	917
<u>653,223</u>		<u>795,228</u>
<u>\$ 35,777</u>	<u>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</u>	<u>\$ (20,323)</u>