

Experimental studies designed to evaluate the management of patients with incurable cancer*

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We agree with Comroe (1) that more studies of ascorbic acid and cancer need to be made. When our work was begun in 1971 there was not enough knowledge about the effects of ascorbic acid on patients with advanced cancer to permit a controlled trial to be planned with confidence about its safety. In 1973 we showed the case histories of the first 40 ascorbate-treated cancer patients to officers of the National Cancer Institute and asked that the institute carry out or provide funds for a prospective randomized double-blind trial. We repeated this request several times. One National Cancer Institute-supported trial is now under way (at the Mayo Clinic). Our own five applications (1973 to 1977) to the National Cancer Institute for grants to study ascorbic acid and cancer, including prospective randomized controlled trials, were all rejected. We have accordingly striven, with the limited funds available to us, to get as much information as possible out of the Vale of Leven case histories and to continue to encourage other investigators to look

into this matter. As Comroe mentioned, in our 1976 paper (2) we presented a new approach to the cancer problem. In our 1978 report (3) we strengthened the argument and discussed some aspects of the investigation that had been criticized. It is our opinion that the National Cancer Institute and those physicians who treat and study cancer patients have ignored far too long the discovery of the value of large doses of ascorbate to patients with advanced cancer.

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1. Comroe, J., Jr. (1978) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **75**, 4543.
2. Cameron, E. & Pauling, L. (1976) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **73**, 3685-3689.
3. Cameron, E. & Pauling, L. (1978) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **75**, 4538-4542.