

JJS

Johnson & Johnson

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

December 14, 1971

Rec'd 12/27/71

Dr. Arthur M. Langer
Associate Professor
Mineralogy
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Fifth Avenue and 100th Street
New York, New York 10029

Dear Dr. Langer:

I should like to thank you for your letter dated November 10, 1971, in which you kindly responded to my letter addressed to Dr. Selikoff dated August 9, 1971.

You indicated in your letter that you had examined the Tenovus samples which we forwarded to you and other independent investigators for study. The samples forwarded to you were identified as follows:

- A. No. 11 - Hospital No: 34907 - Uterus
(1) Surface - Tumor
- B. No. 13 - Hospital No. Ineson (130215)
Ovary (Normal)

It is understood that by the use of electron diffraction methodology you found in the samples grains that resembled talc and that they gave a diffraction pattern consistent for a sheet silicate structure although you have no definitive means of identifying these particles on the basis of their electron diffraction pattern. You also indicate that you observed some chrysotile asbestos to be present in the tissue although you do not mention the method by which you had precisely determined the identification of these particles.

Dr. Arthur M. Langer

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In relation to your observations on the Tenovus samples sent to you for study, it might be mentioned that it is our understanding that no attempt was made by the Tenovus group to prepare the samples under "particle-free" conditions and as such, the possibility of their contamination from the environment cannot be overlooked. It would seem, then, that it is impossible to determine whether the particles are contaminants or in fact were actually contained in the tissues. It is suggested, therefore, that a publication of your observations on potentially contaminated tissue may have limited scientific value.

We were interested to learn of your analysis of our talc samples and the fact that you had observed trace amounts of chrysotile asbestos in amounts you estimated to be less than .01%. We are, of course, somewhat surprised to learn that you found chrysotile asbestos as other independent workers have not so far reported such findings to us and we would like to know exactly the method used to obtain the figure of .01% of chrysotile asbestos and whether this was on a weight or count basis.

In my previous letter, we had requested that the Tenovus samples sent you be returned to us and that we would cover the expenses of your studies. As such, would you kindly forward to me the remaining Tenovus samples. We will be forwarding to you a check for \$1000 drawn on the Department of Community Medicine to cover costs of your studies which, if considered inadequate, please so inform me.

We greatly appreciate your kind interest and cooperation in helping us with the study of the talc sample and Tenovus samples forwarded to you.

Sincerely yours,

Gavin Hildick-Smith, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Director of Clinical Research

GHS:jm

cc: Dr. I.J. Selikoff