

You asked for an estimate of how long it will take to complete these studies. Some of the work, such as dose response studies, will be relatively short term, requiring only two or three years. Other studies such as the relationship between the use of oral contraceptives and cancer, of necessity require much more time. As you know, most of the proven human carcinogens require about ten years to show their effect. This is the reason that it is only now possible to undertake retrospective studies on the possible relationship between oral contraceptive use and breast cancer. Considerations of this sort make specially designed prospective studies particularly important. We expect to maintain such surveillance systems indefinitely since we shall require such systems as contraceptive technology changes with time.

Sincerely,

BOB FINCH, *Secretary.*

Enclosure.