



ROBERT BINGHAM, M.D. INC.

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION • ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

7750 KATELLA AVENUE • SUITE 203 • STANTON, CALIFORNIA 90680 • (714) 891-4443

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April 2, 1986

Kwang W. Jeon
Professor
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
M313 Walters Life Sciences Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-0810

Dear Dr. Jeon:

Thank you for your note of March 19, 1986 regarding the specimen of synovial fluid which you recently examined.

You have made a very interesting and original observation which may have great importance in the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and rheumatoid disease.

For many years some physicians have seen a resemblance with some forms of metastatic disease and rheumatoid arthritis, that is the proliferation of synovial inflammatory tissue and the invasion and destruction which it causes in joints.

You have discovered that in the culture media some synovial cells apparently have continued to be viable, even grow and multiply, while other cells in the fluid which were normal cells have disintegrated.

This may have a considerable significance if it can be determined what factors there are in chronic synovial tissue, which are "more hardy" than normal tissue and release some type of toxin which is necrotic to joint cartilage. The actual multiplication of these cells inside the body, in which should be an environment hostile to their presence, indicates a characteristic which is "near malignancy".

It would seem a very useful and worthwhile project to continue to grow tissue cells from rheumatoid synovia and other rheumatoid tissues in culture to see how they differ from normal cells. If they can be successfully grown in culture various types of treatment could be used on these cells to stop their growth and reproduction to help us treat rheumatoid arthritis.