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TOBACCO SMOKING AND TRAUMA IN WILHELM C HUEPER'S CONCEPTS OF CANCER CAUSATION

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Wilhelm Carl Hueper (1894-1978), a German-born and trained medical practitioner, emigrated to the US in 1923. In the 1930s, he was a pathologist at the Dupont synthetic polymer works and published articles on industrial hygiene. In 1942, he published his first major work on occupational carcinogenesis [1], proposing that a large proportion of non-industrial as well as industrial human cancers are caused by man-made chemicals. In 1948, he was appointed Director of the Environmental Carcinogenesis Section of the NIH. Four later major works [2-5] used extensive epidemiological data to support his opinion that industrial chemicals cause most of the cancers in the general population. His life-time oeuvre and influence have been discussed [e.g. 6-9], but only limited attention has been paid to his views on tobacco smoking and trauma as causes of cancer.

This paper reviews issues in the pathology and epidemiology of these topics as discussed in Hueper's main works [1-5].

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Biography

Leon P Bignold is a Histopathologist interested in genomic mechanisms of the histopathology and related features of tumors. He has published 18 papers, edited one volume "Cancer: Cell Structures, Carcinogens and Genomic Instability", Birkhäuser, 2006 and written two books "David Paul Hansemann: Contributions to Oncology", Birkhäuser, 2008; "Principles of Tumors: a Translational Approach to Foundations", Elsevier 2015 in this area. His research interests are genomic explanations of the histopathology and related phenomena of tumors.

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