

Dr. Averill A. Liebow Addresses the Mexican Academy of Medicine

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LIEBOW ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN MEXICO CITY

Dr. Averill A. Liebow yesterday addressed the Second National Congress of the Mexican Academy of Medicine currently meeting in Mexico City. Dr. Liebow, who is chairman of the Pathology Department of the School of Medicine at UCSD, delivered a paper entitled "Biopsy in the Study of Pulmonary Disease."

The meeting, which began January 12 and will continue through January 18, is described as one of the most important medical events ever to occur in Mexico. Attending the congress are many of the world's most outstanding medical researchers.

In his presentation, Dr. Liebow said, "Biopsy of the lung has contributed immensely to the study of the natural history of disease." He pointed out that lung biopsy has led to the identification of a number of new diseases.

Lung biopsy, according to Dr. Liebow, provides unprecedented opportunities not only for the study of disease and its response to treatment, but also for the study of causes underlying certain obscure pulmonary diseases.

Use of the technique, however, involves recognition of certain ethical problems. Dr. Liebow said, "Every patient should have an honest appraisal of the value of the procedure to himself and to medical science, and he should be put into a position to make an informed decision."

In concluding, Dr. Liebow pointed out that, "Each lung biopsy specimen should be considered precious, obtained at some risk to the patient, and therefore to be put to the best possible use both for the benefit of the individual and for medical science."

This current recognition follows close on the heels of the selection of Dr. Liebow late last year for the Middleton Goldsmith Lectures. Lectureships are awarded every few years and in the past have gone to such men as Simon Flexner, Charles Sedgwick Minot, Howard T. Krasner, and Eugene L. Opie among others.

Born in Austria, Dr. Liebow became a U. S. citizen in 1926. He earned his medical degree from Yale University's School of Medicine where he was John Slade Ely Professor of Pathology until joining the faculty at UCSD. He is the author of many papers and is currently primarily interested in cardiac and pulmonary pathology.