

## Dr. Herbert Lombard, 89, pioneer cancer researcher, saw smoking link

By Herbert Black  
Special to The Globe

— Dr. Herbert L. Lombard, internationally-known pioneer in cancer research and treatment and one of the first to link smoking and cancer, died late Sunday night at Pondville State Hospital, the cancer-treatment hospital he helped found.

Dr. Lombard, who lived at 47 Charlotte rd., Newton Centre, would have been 90 next Sunday. He had been ill for many months with heart disease and skin cancer.

A quiet, modest man devoted to care of people and to research into the causes of chronic diseases, he developed, in Massachusetts in 1926, the first system of comprehensive cancer clinics in the nation. He was serving at the time as director of adult hygiene in the Massachu-

setts Department of Public Health.

The system was one of the first major efforts to educate the public and doctors about cancer and to promote early diagnosis and treatment.

As early as the 1920s, Dr. Lombard noted a link between smoking and oral cancer and reported it in the medical literature. This led him into research into the causes of lung cancer and the discovery, in the 1950s of a statistical link between smoking and lung cancer. Dr. Lombard's finding is believed to be the first time cigarette smoking and lung cancer were linked.

He was quoted in 1957 as saying: "While cigarettes seem to be the prime offenders, there are other contributory causes, notably extremely heavy drinking, outdoor work in city areas among traffic fumes, and chronic res-



DR. HERBERT L. LOMBARD

piratory conditions." He noted that after 25 years of smoking cigarettes, the risk of lung cancer is doubled.

Dr. Lombard also was the first to note a statistical link between cancer of the uterus and early marriages by teen-age women. Many studies since have confirmed such a link.

Dr. Lombard served the State Department of Public Health for 35 years, retiring in 1960 at the age of 70. He continued his research activities for five years after that time, serving as an associate at the New England Deaconess Hospital, according to his daughter, Olive M. Lombard, a biostatistician with whom he lived.

In 1945, Dr. Lombard was appointed director of the Division of Cancer and Chronic Diseases of the Department of Public Health. He did a study for the Legislature to determine whether the state needed a state cancer hospital. He found that it did, and urged that one be built. He opposed the Pondville location as being too far from Boston, but was overruled by the Legislature.

Dr. Lombard was a founder of the Massachusetts division of the American Cancer Society and served many years as a director. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society. For many years he served as a professor of public health at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and as an instructor at the Harvard

School of Public Health. He was a consultant to the National Cancer Institute. He graduated from Bowdoin Medical School in 1915 and received his master's degree in public health from Harvard in 1923.

Funeral services will be tomorrow at 10 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church in Newton Centre.

**The Boston Globe**

Boston, MA

Tuesday, November 27, 1979

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