

NUTRITION FORUM

VOL. 5 NUMBER 8

DECEMBER 1988
INDEX ISSUE

ISSN 0748-8165

THE MANNER SEMINAR

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Several months ago, Harold W. Manner, Ph.D., a former biology professor who directed a laetrile clinic in Tijuana, Mexico, was still recruiting patients desperate for cure and "alternative" health practitioners hungry for profits. On June 25-26, Manner spoke in Irving, Texas, hoping to expand his network of "qualified metabolic physicians," which he said included nearly 600 practitioners in the U.S. and several foreign countries. At a hotel near the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the 63-year-old Manner touted his "break-throughs" both in treating diseases and in billing insurers. About 30 people attended the seminar, most of them chiropractors and naturopaths, from as far away as North Carolina and Oregon.

The seminar resembled a medicine show, with a bit of a pop-psychology thrown in. At one point the Manner Clinic psychologist dimmed the lights, played "When You Wish Upon A Star," and said that positive thinking is crucial to curing cancer. But a recurring theme was money. The clinic was making lots of it, and those attending the seminar were invited to share in this windfall. The silver-haired Manner, who resembled actor Jason Robards, promised them a \$200 "consulting fee" for each patient they referred to his clinic. That's just the beginning, he said, of an arrangement that "can substantially increase your annual income."

From the start, Manner admitted his treatment program was unconventional. He called it "metabolic therapy," which he defined as the use of natural food products and vitamins to prevent and treat disease by building a strong immune system.

Manner's background

Manner was born in 1925 in New York and grew up in rural New Jersey. He received his bachelor's degree in science from John Carroll University in 1949, a master of science degree from Northwestern in 1950, and a doctorate in biology from Northwestern in 1952. He taught biology at Utica College of Syracuse University, serving as chairman of the division of science and

mathematics from 1963 to 1969, and then chaired the biology department at St. Louis University until 1972. From 1972 to 1978, Manner was chairman of the biology department at Loyola University in Chicago. He continued to teach biology there until 1982, when he resigned under pressure from the school for his unconventional theories.

Manner established the Metabolic Research Foundation in Glenview, Illinois, in 1979, with himself as president, but later moved it to San Ysidro, California, across the border from Tijuana. He used to conduct four seminars a year, but now holds only two. Before teaming up with the Tijuana clinic, he operated another facility, the Emerald Isle Clinic, in Montserrat, West Indies.

"It is not a copper bracelet," Manner said of his treatment program. "It is good, solid science . . . I am an orthodox scientist. I use the scientific method." But on "God Still Loves Me," one of his instructional tapes, Manner says his theories are the product of divine inspiration. He said he would lie in bed at night pondering the problems of cancer and other diseases. "That beautiful Father in heaven would give me the answer. We'd try it, and it would work. Every part of our therapy comes from God's teachings." Even the use of laetrile is suggested in the Bible, Manner said.

On the tape, he calls himself a born-again Christian. Newspapers have quoted him saying he found religion in 1968 after years as an agnostic. He says his parents were Sunday school teachers and that evangelist Jimmy Swaggart converted him. He also says that fellow professors ridiculed him for carrying a Bible, preaching the gospel and other religious practices: "My fellow faculty members used to laugh at me because before examinations, I would pray with my students."

Manner's enterprises

The clinic and the Metabolic Research Foundation have been as enterprising in their financial affairs as in their pseudomedical procedures. The clinic rakes

in about \$1.5 million a year from insurance claims and an undisclosed amount in direct payments from patients, according to Manner's consultants. Additional income comes from book and vitamin sales and seminar and membership fees.

The Texas workshop cost \$200 in advance or \$250 at the door. Concessionaires offered cookbooks (Manner preaches the importance of diet); books on various cancer therapies, including *The Death of Cancer* and several others written by Manner; and tables of vitamins, mineral orotates, enzymes and other concoctions retailed by Manner Metabolic Products Inc. for as much as \$192.50 per bottle.

A flyer for the seminar promised instruction on how to recoup the cost of the seminar tenfold by becoming a "paid consultant" to the Manner Clinic. The participants received three tapes on Manner's treatment methods and religious beliefs. They also received several newsletters, brochures, and even a certificate that they had "successfully completed the Advanced Course in Metabolic Therapy," which Manner said might be useful in claiming educational credits. During the workshop and in subsequent mailings, participants were urged to order additional items, including audiotapes of the sessions (\$50) and a videocassette of the Foundation's 1987 meeting in Pennsylvania (\$23).

The bulk of the Manner organization's income comes from the Tijuana clinic, which can house up to 44 patients at a time. Manner's Metabolic Research Foundation became affiliated with the facility in 1982, when it was called the Cydel Clinic, according to its owner, Sergio del Rio. By offering Manner's therapies, "we began to see improvements in our patients which in many cases bordered on the miraculous," del Rio said. But he became worried after Manner "expressed concern that once he left us through retirement or death, everything he had worked for would be lost and forgotten." Vowing that "this would never happen," Cydel officials provided a laboratory for Manner; and on June 1, 1984, the Cydel Clinic was renamed in his honor. "In this way, patients far into the future will know that there is a Manner Clinic where the Manner therapies are practiced," del Rio said in a statement circulated at the seminar.

The clinic brochure calls the Manner Clinic the "World leader in disease prevention" and promises treatment based on "the latest scientific and medical information." Clinic employees meet patients at the San Diego airport and take them in a white van across the border into Mexico. Patients do not need passports, but are asked to bring their medical records.

The cancer, arthritis and multiple sclerosis programs each last 21 days. The cancer program costs \$7,500; the arthritis program, \$5,500; and the multiple sclerosis program, \$7,250. In addition, the clinic offers a 7-day "prevention program" for \$1,600 and a 7-day "cellular therapy" program in which the cells from unborn

or very young sheep are injected into patients to "reverse the aging process." The cellular therapy program costs \$3,500 if used alone, \$1,300 if taken simultaneously with another program, or \$2,750 to former clinic patients who return for it.

"While the U.S. health care delivery costs have been rising rapidly, our charges at the Manner Clinic have never risen over \$7,500 for the complete 21-day program including room and board," Manner said. He said the clinic has served about 4,000 patients and operates at capacity, with about a 2-week waiting list.

The clinic asks that payment be made in dollars or by credit card. "Due to international clearance problems, personal checks are not accepted," the brochure says. However, it urges prospective patients to "obtain insurance forms from your agent. We will assist in their completion. Most insurance companies will honor your claims." But he warns patients not to ask their company whether they are covered for his treatment. "All they have to do is call up and say, 'I'm thinking of going down to the Manner Clinic for laetrile . . . A flag is going to come up and that person will never get it.'" Instead, Manner refers them to the company that does his clinic's billings.

Creative billing

The clinic has retained a Houston-based firm, North American Health Insurance Coordinators Inc., to file the insurance claims. "It has been a godsend for us," Manner said, noting that without insurance coverage, many patients would be unable to stay at the clinic. "We get complete coverage for our patients from most insurance companies," he said. Some insurance firms pay even for the patients' airfare to and from San Diego and for the costs of their accompanying spouses, he said.

North American Health Insurance Coordinators Inc. "specializes in filing insurance claims for alternative health care," said Ronnie King, the company's claims supervisor. The firm files for several Mexican clinics, including Ernesto Contreras' Del Mar Medical Center in Tijuana, as well as some clinics in the United States, Germany and Greece. When claims are denied, King said, he routinely appeals "over and over, whatever's necessary to get the claim paid . . . everything short of litigation." The result: The company recovers at

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Nutrition Forum ISSN 0748 8165 is published monthly by the George F. Stickley Company, 210 W. Washington Square, Philadelphia, PA 19106. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Philadelphia, PA. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$25/yr., \$45/2 yrs., \$67.50/3 yrs., prepaid; VISA and Mastercard acceptable; foreign postage by airmail add \$10.00. Manuscripts, books for review, and other editorial correspondence should be sent to Dr. Stephen Barrett, P.O. Box 1747, Allentown, PA 18105. Correspondence concerning subscription, fulfillment and change of address should be sent to the GEORGE F. STICKLEY COMPANY.

least 90% of the clinics' charges and nearly all the claims it files on its behalf, King said.

"We recover \$100,000 to \$160,000 a month for the Manner Clinic," he told the seminar. "It's not so much what is on the claim as how it is presented." For example, on claim forms he refers to the facility as the Cydel Hospital; and for live cell therapy, "we list it as therapeutic injections," he said. The key is using the proper form from the American Medical Association and the right codes, King said. His company has succeeded in getting payments not only from insurers, including Blue Cross of Southern California, but also from some government programs, he said. Manner said his clinic has "a Blue Cross provider number, which gives us clearance right straight across the United States" and that the Canadian Medicare program has paid for Canadians treated at the clinic. Although U.S. Medicare refuses to pay for treatment outside the United States, many people have secondary health insurance that may have to pay when Medicare doesn't, King said. His company also seeks reimbursement for the supplements prescribed by the clinic, King stated. Manner said that patients are sent back to the United States with laetrile, vitamins and other medication, and the clinic prepares the forms required to export the products.

King said he frequently can persuade insurers to cover unconventional treatments by explaining that the patients have exhausted the standard therapies. He also stresses that the Tijuana clinics' fees are much lower than standard hospital bills. King said his service "opens new avenues to patients who never thought they could receive alternative treatment because they didn't think they could afford it."

In a solicitation to patients, King's company says: "We will prepare a standardized claim from the information provided by your doctor's office, using the numerical coding and terminology specific to your treatment. We will mail the claim to your insurance company and follow up on it with telephone calls to ensure it has been received and is being processed. Most claims are paid within 3-4 weeks . . . Out-of-pocket expenses such as travel, hotel, etc., may also be covered by your insurance policy. If so, we will file a claim for these after payment has been made for your medical treatment."

The company charges 16% of the amount it recovers. "If your insurance carrier denies payment after we have done everything possible to collect for you, you will owe us nothing," the solicitation says. But the Manner Clinic does not let the company's fees cut into its revenues. When billing insurers, Manner said, "We take that 16% and add it as administrative costs."

Manner's network

The clinic maintains a steady stream of referrals from its associates throughout the United States and other countries, Manner said. Chiropractors and other

health care providers can become associates by joining the Metabolic Research Foundation for \$100 (or \$25 after attending a Manner seminar). Manner said he realizes that associates lose money when they refer patients. "It's going to cost you money . . . It's not fair to you." So for every referral, "we'll automatically send you a check for \$200." And when the clinic discharges patients, it sends them back to its associates for follow-up. "What you charge, how many times you want to see the patient, that's your decision," Manner said.

He asks that the associates continue prescribing the supplements given at the clinic. This is another source of income for the associates, who can buy products from Manner Metabolic Products Inc. and resell them to patients at a 100% profit.

The associates have a symbiotic relationship with the clinic, Manner said. He said the clinic provides free advice to participating physicians. Manner himself offered to do blood tests for associates' patients at no charge: Associates could send the blood vials to him at his home in Hollywood, Florida. "I do 30-40 pieces of blood work a night," Manner said. He said he had a toll-free telephone number and carried a beeper. "You always want to feel free to call the doctors at the clinic or me," he told the seminar participants. Associates have been invited to visit the clinic at least once a year, especially when the Metabolic Research Foundation holds its annual meeting.

Manner said the clinic and its insurance consultants were trying to get insurance companies to cover follow-up treatment by the associates. "This would also include the reimbursement for all supplements and medications," Manner said. "Although the details of this new program have not yet been worked out, you can imagine the enthusiasm this generated in the minds of our physicians and nutritional consultants."

Besides making initial referrals, the associates can send patients back to the clinic for what Manner described as a "booster shot" of his intravenous cocktail. So if their patients' health appears to decline during the follow-up care, "you might suggest they spend another week at the clinic," Manner told the seminar participants. Patients get a discount on their return visits.

At last February's annual meeting of the Metabolic Foundation, members were welcomed by Francisco Diaz Martinez, chief of medical services for Tijuana. He stated "how proud the Mexican government was to have our clinic located in Tijuana," Manner recalled in a subsequent newsletter. "He also promised the continued support of the government and the health department. I wondered, as he was speaking, if we ever will be afforded the same hospitality by our own government and the health departments in the United States."

Manner was painfully aware of how the U.S. medical establishment views him. On March 12, he wrote a letter to U.S. Rep. Morris Udall, who chairs

Congress' Technology Assessment Board. "One of my concerns is that the U.S. medical and scientific community has not had the opportunity to read about or explore the work that I and the physician members of the Foundation have accomplished in the area of nutritional metabolic therapy," the letter states. "This metabolic therapy is not patented and could be administered by every primary care physician in even the smallest communities in the United States. I am asking your help in getting the Office of Technology Assessment to develop a clinical protocol that is identical to what we use in Tijuana, Mexico. It is imperative that a clinical protocol be released by OTA, so that our health professionals can begin immediately to implement human clinical trials."

Manner contends that the "American Cancer Industry" has tried to suppress his accomplishments. "I was and still am a respected scientist," he said in his letter. But after advocating metabolic therapy, "I was immediately branded as a 'quack' by the United States cancer establishment."

Manner's theories

At the Texas seminar, Manner frequently cited the work of John Beard, who published a book on the enzyme treatment of cancer in London in 1911, and of Ernst T. Krebs Sr. and his son, Ernst Jr., who embraced Beard's ideas and advocated laetrile therapy. Manner said that when he began using laetrile in his research, he was skeptical, but in 1977 he announced he had cured cancer in mice with injections of laetrile, vitamin A, and enzymes. A chiropractic journal published this research and Manner touted his results through press conferences and public lectures. In a 1978 interview in *Mother Earth News*, Manner claimed he had been harassed by the FDA and that he had stored copies of 17 patient records "in a locked bank vault in Canada . . . known only to me and a few friends. When I have 100 of these files, I'm hoping to put them in a package, to take them to Washington, D.C., and I think the whole laetrile controversy will be over." However, the alleged files and Manner's intent to send them to Washington were not mentioned again in any of the dozens of subsequently published materials distributed at the Texas seminar.

Manner has given contradictory opinions of conventional treatment for cancer and other diseases. One of his brochures says, "The cancer patient should not exclude from consideration other forms of cancer therapy such as radiation, chemotherapy and surgery. Fortunately, the nature of metabolic therapy permits its use in conjunction with conventional therapy." But at the seminar, he bitterly attacked standard therapies as ineffective and dangerous. Manner's claimed success rates for cancer were also contradictory. On a tape recording, he said 74% of the clinic's patients "will never have to worry about that cancer again." But a brochure refers to "a success factor of 68%," with success defined

as elimination of either the cancer or its threat to life.

Manner claimed that in recent years a significant reassessment of the nature and causes of cancer has taken place: "Cancer was formerly believed to be a localized disease, characterized by a lesion, usually in the form of a growth, which appeared at some specific part of the body. This localized lesion was thought to be the result of activity produced by an invading virus, carcinogenic agent, or some form of trauma such as a blow. Today, there is a growing conviction among researchers and physicians that cancer is a complex disease that is the end result of a disturbed metabolism (body chemistry) . . . The frequent recurrence of a malignancy after treatment with the conventional methods of surgery, radiation and/or chemotherapy results because the basic underlying metabolic cause of the cancer is rarely considered and consequently remains uncorrected."

The human body is under constant bombardment by carcinogenic chemicals in our food, water and air, Manner said. "Each day, in every human being, large numbers of normal embryonic cells become cancerous." Fortunately, he added, most people have an immune system strong enough to neutralize or destroy the cancerous cells. "If the immune system, however, is weakened from poor nutrition, excessive environmental pollutants or a continuing debilitating stress, the cancer cells are uninhibited and will multiply rapidly, forming the symptomatic 'growth' of cancer," Manner contended. "One of the primary objectives of all metabolic therapy is to revitalize the body's immune system, to restore it to a fully functional condition . . . We can remain healthy if we supply the individual cells of the body with the proper amounts of oxygen, nutrients, enzymes, minerals, amino acids and other essential nutrients from both our diet and nutritional supplements. Of equal importance is the ability of the body to eliminate the waste products of cellular metabolism through proper bowel movements, efficient breathing, normal excretion, etc. Treatments must be provided which will help the body detoxify itself by eliminating harmful pollutants."

Conventional treatments, such as radiation and chemotherapy, cause a "complete depression of the immune system" and can "turn a normal person into a zombie," Manner said. "You don't depress the system you need to fight a disease, and that's exactly what they're doing."

Cancer treatment at the Manner Clinic

Manner said his patients undergo a series of tests, including a blood count, a SMAC-24 and a hair analysis, which he contended "will tell us whether metals are present in deficient or excessive amounts" in the body. The SMAC-24 is a standard test, but Manner rejected the laboratory norms of the medical establishment. These represent an average for the population, and "if the population becomes sicker, the ranges become

greater," Manner said. Therefore, he recommended that his associates use narrower "optimum" ranges he had devised. On the basis of these tests, Manner would recommend supplements to correct supposed mineral excesses and deficiencies.

Upon entering the clinic, patients are put on a two-day juice fast. Manner also believed they must achieve two bowel movements a day; if the fast does not stimulate the bowels, patients receive an herbal laxative and a soapsuds enema. The goal is to achieve "a bowel transit time of 12 hours." The protocol for Manner's cancer therapy states: "Anything longer than this is dangerous, for it allows chemical reactions to occur in the digestive system. End products of these reactions can be carcinogenic (e.g. nitrosamines)."

Patients also receive a daily coffee enema which Manner called "a coffee retention implant": "One cup of coffee (not instant) should be brewed and allowed to cool to body temperature. It is then injected into the rectum with a rectal syringe and retained for 15-30 minutes. The caffeine-stimulated secretion of bile is an important part of the detoxification plan as it helps to restore the alkaline condition of the small intestine." At the seminar, Manner acknowledged that he had been ridiculed for advocating coffee enemas. But he said, "When we talk about a coffee implant, we're talking about something that is solid science." When patients return home, Manner recommended that they continue one or two coffee enemas a week.

Patients also receive "digestive aids" and "pancreatic enzymes" with every meal. "These compounds contain hydrochloric acid, pepsin and enterically coated pancreatic enzymes," the cancer protocol states. "This will insure the proper digestion of ingested food." Manner told the workshop, "Most patients we see do not have a good digestive system." The regimen also calls for "anti-neoplastic enzymes" to remove protective shields so the tumor can be recognized by the immune system, the protocol states. Manner added that the enzymes help remove a fibrin coat that surrounds tumors, making them vulnerable to the other components of his treatment.

One of those components is vitamin A. "This should be given in an emulsified form to minimize liver involvement," the protocol states. "Two drops of Emulsified A are given in the morning juice and two drops in the evening juice to increase the number of circulating lymphocytes. This total of four drops will give the patient 60,000 International Units daily. Every second day an additional two drops should be added morning and evening. Classical signs of vitamin A toxicity should be watched for both by the patient and the physician. If any occur, discontinue vitamin A for one week. Return after one week with a two-weeks-on, two-weeks-off routine, employing a dosage 100,000 units lower per day than that which caused the toxic reaction."

"When we first started using vitamin A, people

thought we were mad," Manner told the Texas seminar. The clinic increases patients' daily doses of vitamin A from 100,000 International Units to 1 million. "That's enough vitamin A to kill," Manner noted. "How can we ever support these massive doses of vitamin A?" Because, he answered, in its emulsified form, the vitamin A bypasses the liver and does not poison the patients.

Benjamin Wilson, M.D., a surgeon in Dallas, Oregon, who has tracked Manner's activities for many years, states that Manner is dead wrong and that these vitamin A dosages can build up to toxic levels. In 1983, Charles and Paulette Peters of Midlothian, Illinois, sued Manner, the Metabolic Research Foundation, a Texas physician and two Illinois "nutritional consultants." According to the suit, Manner advised Mrs. Peters that it was safe to give large amounts of vitamin A to her 8-year-old son Charles, Jr., who had been diagnosed as having leukemia. After taking 120,000 IU of vitamin A daily for about a year, he developed headaches, extreme sensitivity to light, severe bone pain, headaches, mental confusion and a 10-pound weight loss caused by vitamin A poisoning [see NF 1:10]. The suit was settled out-of-court for an undisclosed sum.

At the seminar, Manner said that the vitamin A stimulates production of white blood cells, which can attack the tumor. His protocol adds that "lymphocytes are stimulated by the addition of thymosine. This hormone is present in raw thymus gland." Consequently, the clinic gives patients two thymus tablets three times a day.

The buildup of white blood cells has a drawback, Manner claimed. He said it causes a change in the oxygen in the bloodstream. An atom of oxygen normally has eight electrons in its outer ring, Manner said; however, a concentration of white blood cells causes two of the electrons to be thrown out, creating what he called an oxide radical. This oxide radical also is caused by ultraviolet light, microwave ovens, color television sets, x-rays and other radiation, Manner said. "We are being constantly bombarded with these rays." The resulting oxide radicals cause arthritis, rheumatism, lupus, sickle cell anemia and other diseases, he contended. So, three tablets of superoxide dismutase (SOD) should be given to "enable the body to convert any superoxide radicals present to water and pure oxygen."

Although enzymes taken by mouth are digested and don't actually enter the body, Manner told the Texas seminar that the SOD causes the oxide radicals to combine with hydrogen in the bloodstream, forming hydrogen peroxide, which boosts the blood's oxygen level. "Cancer cells thrive on carbon dioxide and die in an atmosphere of oxygen," he said.

The next part of Manner's therapy involves vitamin C "to inhibit tumor growth," the protocol says. "Start with five grams daily and increase by one gram per day until an acute diarrhea occurs. At this point,

drop back two grams and continue at this level throughout the treatment.

The protocol then calls for administration of amygdalin (laetrile) by mouth and later intravenously in a "Manner cocktail" containing 9 grams of amygdalin, 10 cc of DMSO, and 25 grams of vitamin C over 2-3 hours. Manner claimed that in the blood the amygdalin breaks down into: glucose, which gives patients a burst of energy; benzaldehyde, which alleviates their pain; and cyanide, which he said kills just cancer cells. However, according to the American Cancer Society, laetrile is toxic and cannot attack cancer cells selectively.

Manner's approach also calls for supplementation with selenium, zinc, spleen tablets, multivitamin/mineral tablets, and numerous other products. "There is no supplement which cannot be taken safely with the aforementioned plan," the protocol says. "In fact, one should supplement twelve tablets daily of the gland or organ tissue primarily affected." The clinic also puts cancer patients on a "natural food" diet which includes 32 ounces of raw vegetable juice a day. "A juice extractor should be purchased by the patient, and most of the vegetables in the diet should be juiced," the cancer protocol says. "In this way, all of the naturally occurring enzymes, minerals and vitamins will be present."

The clinic has whirlpools and Jacuzzis. Patients take "hydrotherapy," followed by a 45-minute massage, to stimulate the lymphatic system, Manner said. He said the clinic also holds inspirational sessions for its cancer patients. "If you believe that you only have three months to live, there is no treatment," Manner said. "When we begin to think we're going to make it, the body responds." The clinic tries to convince its patients that they can beat their cancer, said Miguel Lanzagorta, the clinic psychologist, who attended the Texas seminar. "As you think, so you become," he said. He touted "the power of thought," saying, "All power comes from within."

Seminar participants also received information on the "Manner 5" program, which Manner said was intended to augment the basic program with 21 days at the clinic plus 69 days of treatment at home. Its components include laetrile, various enzymes and supplements, an "anti-viral compound in the same class of interferon," a "lysing agent . . . designed to dissolve, decompose and disintegrate cancer cells," orange capsules to add oxygen to the blood, white-and-brown "antifermentation" capsules to "keep the carbon dioxide level in the blood low," and white-and-blue "anti-fibrinator" capsules that "strip cancer cells of their protective cocoon." Although literature referred to Manner 5 as "a new program that we feel will revolutionize cancer therapy," Manner said the program has been used for about five years and that the clinic's medical director, Gilberto Alvarez, recommends it for all cancer patients.

A testimonial

One of Manner's biggest boosters has been 51-year-old Ginny Davis, of Franklin, Wisconsin, whose testimonial story was distributed at the seminar. A pathology report attached to the testimonial indicates that in April 1985, a diagnosis of "infiltrating adenocarcinoma" was made in a polyp that was removed from Ms. Davis's large intestine. According to her testimonial, the surgeon advised Ms. Davis's family doctor that part of her large intestine should be removed, but she refused and chose instead to go to the Manner Clinic.

"It was a beautiful experience," Davis said in the testimonial. "I saw so much . . . Norma, with brain tumors, had been in a wheelchair for five months—walking with a cane in two weeks. Mike, with bone cancer, had been given only two weeks before he'd be flat in bed—and things were supposed to get worse from there. Instead, in two weeks he walked around the San Diego Zoo for four hours!"

"Now it is three years later. My latest colonoscopy report reads, 'Conclusion: normal colon' by my same specialist I original saw." Davis is more than a supporter of Manner; she is also listed on a map given out at the meeting as one of 12 distributors of Manner products. [Editor's note: The average layperson looking at Ms. Davis's story would probably conclude that her surgeon had wanted to remove part of her colon because her cancer had infiltrated into the colon. But the term "infiltrating carcinoma" merely meant that the cancer had infiltrated below the surface layer of the polyp—so that removal of the polyp would very likely cure the patient. The purpose of further surgery would have been to prevent new cancers from forming. Thus it is probable that Ms. Davis had been cured of her cancer before going to the Manner clinic.]

Arthritis regimen

The Manner Clinic also offers treatment for arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, gout and osteoarthritis. Contrary to the assertions of conventional physicians, "there is a known cause and there is a known cure," Manner said at the Texas seminar. He claimed that arthritis occurs when trauma from a fall, sprain, or everyday wear and tear injures a joint and the body's white blood cells rush to the area to clean up the damage. These white cells produce oxide radicals, which restrict movement in the joints, Manner contended. His arthritis patients go on a two-day juice fast, receive coffee enemas, follow a mainly vegetarian diet that includes numerous minerals and enzymes, receive 600,000 IU daily of emulsified vitamin A and 15 grams of vitamin C, and take other supplements such as thyroid, adrenal and liver tablets. Patients also get a slow-drip infusion containing 25 grams of vitamin C and 10 cc of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), administered daily over 2-3 hours. They also receive 5 tablets a day of superoxide

dismutase, Manner said.

This therapy, he claimed, eliminates the oxide radicals that attack the lubricating fluids in the joint. But to eliminate the inflammation and prevent recurrence of arthritis, patients must take additional supplements, which he called Homeopathic Formulas No. 1, 11, 30 and 46. Each formula comes in a 1-ounce bottle that retails for \$8. Patients are told to continue these formulas along with SOD, digestive enzymes and other supplements for at least three months after returning from the clinic, Manner said. He also recommended that DMSO be diluted 1:1 with distilled water and patted gently on affected joints. "DMSO penetrates every cell in the body," he said. "It travels into and out of synovial cavities and, in so doing, removes toxic elements which may be present."

"As soon as we eliminate the inflammation, the arthritis should be gone and out of the body for the rest of the patient's life," although ingestion of red meat can retrigger the disease, Manner said. On the arthritis tape, he says the clinic has been using this therapy since 1984 and has a success rate of more than 80%. But no data to back this up were distributed at the seminar.

Multiple sclerosis regimen

Manner said the medical establishment is in the "dark ages" about multiple sclerosis, but he believed it is caused by a virus which produces (you guessed it) oxide radicals in the blood. "The treatment plan, based on this hypothesis, is a three-fold plan," the clinic's protocol for multiple sclerosis therapy states. "First, the virus must be removed from the body. This will be accomplished by using interferon stimulants and immunoglobulins. Secondly, the superoxide radical must be removed, utilizing the dismutation reaction. Thirdly, the physiological condition of the organ systems of the body must be restored to an optimum level."

The clinic's patients with multiple sclerosis do not receive a slow-drip infusion. However, along with the fast, coffee enemas, five SOD tablets three times a day, and a diet that includes "digestive aids," the patients take: two daily tablespoons of Imu-Gen, which Manner said is a colostrum from cows and is rich in immunoglobulins; 15 grams a day of vitamin C; 60,000 IU a day of emulsified vitamin A; 9 capsules a day of Prometal, which Manner said contains octacosanol, a wheat germ oil product that assists the neuromuscular system. After the patients leave the clinic, the Imu-Gen is administered on a three-weeks-on, three-weeks-off schedule; vitamin C is reduced to 5,000 mg per day; and vitamin A is cut to 25,000 units a day.

"Within a short time, they begin to feel a change, they begin to feel stronger," Manner said. "The results in some instances are unbelievable." He said the clinic has been treating multiple sclerosis for about two years. [Editor's note: In a 1984 TV broadcast he said he had been treating multiple sclerosis and claimed a 90% success

rate. However, since most patients with multiple sclerosis undergo several spontaneous remissions, no therapy for this condition can be evaluated without long-range controlled studies. Although Manner claimed high success rates for all of the conditions he treated, I have seen no evidence that he actually kept track of how his patients did after leaving his clinic. I believe that at least some of Manner's claims were outright lies.]

The clinic also offers two one-week programs, Manner told the Texas recruits. One is a "prevention program," which he said "also is covered by all the insurance policies." The program consists basically of the first week of the cancer therapy, but laetrile is omitted from the slow-drip infusion.

Cellular therapy (live cells therapy)

In October 1986, the clinic began offering "cellular therapy," based on the research of a German professor named Niehans, Manner said. In this therapy (which is on the American Cancer Society's "unproven methods" list), cells from an unborn or very young sheep are injected into the buttocks to revitalize the body's memory, sex drive and other characteristics. Manner claimed that the therapy has also been effective in reversing arteriosclerosis, Parkinson's disease, premature menopause, impotence, bronchial asthma, chronic indigestion and a long list of other problems. "Even in cases of chronic diseases which have persisted for many years and no longer respond to conventional medication, cell therapy can be beneficial because it activates the endogenous powers of resistance and revitalizes patients," Manner said. He recommended this treatment every five years for people between age 35 and 45 and every five years for older people. "This program is so well accepted that many American insurance companies may reimburse the complete cost of your treatment," a Manner brochure says.

Because of Manner's emphasis on strengthening the body's immune system to fight disease, several participants at the seminar asked whether he intended to develop a therapy for AIDS. Not surprisingly, he said yes, he had been thinking about opening an AIDS clinic in the Caribbean. He said he had been reluctant to treat AIDS at his Tijuana clinic because the thought of rubbing shoulders with AIDS patients might drive other patients away.

Throughout his presentation, Manner exuded optimism, self-confidence, and apparent sincerity—traits that enabled him to sell his bill of goods to many people. Calls to the toll-free number (1-800-433-4962) of Manner's public relations director, Nadine Rogers, are still answered with a recorded offer of a free information packet. But Manner himself shall quack no more. On October 11, he died of a massive heart attack.

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