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Dr. Harold A. Abramson Is Dead; Authority on Allergy and Asthma

By JOAN COOK

Dr. Harold A. Abramson, who pioneered in the study of eczema and asthma and was one of the first Americans to do research on the effects of the hallucinogenic drug LSD, died of cancer Monday at his home in Cold Spring Harbor, L.I. He was 80 years old.

Dr. Abramson, a psychiatrist and allergist, was engaged in private practice and was the director of psychiatric research of the South Oaks Hospital in Amityville, L.I., at the time of his death. He was also a consultant in research psychiatry at the state psychiatric center in Central Islip, L.I., and consultant to the Community Hospital in Glen Cove, L.I.

He was a co-founder and vice president of the Asthmatic Children's Foundation of New York, which opened in 1962, a co-founder of the Asthma Care Association of America in 1954 and a co-founder of the Asthmatic Publications Society in 1963. He was the founding editor of the Journal of Asthma Research in 1962 and was its editor in chief until his death.

The C.I.A. Experiment

Dr. Abramson's name figured in the case of Dr. Frank Olson, an Army biochemist who had committed suicide after being an unwitting participant in a Central Intelligence Agency experiment with LSD in 1953. The case was reopened in 1975 and Dr. Abramson, who had treated Mr. Olson at the request of the C.I.A. after he had begun having bad reactions to the drug, sent a telegram to the Senate health subcommittee in which he reported that he had done work on LSD with the C.I.A. 22 years earlier at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

"This research," he said, "was supported by the Geschikter Foundation at its inception and later by the Macy Foundation."

Research by Dr. Abramson contributed to the so-called Cronus-complex theory of severe, chronic asthma in children, which postulates mutual psychological engulfment between mother and child.



Dr. Harold A. Abramson