

Cancer research

From Dr F. J. C. Roe

Sir, Lord Zuckerman has himself drawn attention (October 27) to one textual error in his recent report on cancer research, to the effect that the United States is spending between 10 and 15 times, not 30 to 35 times, as much on biomedical research as we do in Britain.

Another error in the report merits attention because of its bearing on the total cancer research effort in this country. It is stated that the best estimate of the money spent by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund on research directly related to cancer in 1971-72 was £3,263,000. According to the last annual report of the Fund, the sum was £1,042,907. If the other figures quoted are accurate, the correction reduces the total spent on cancer research in Britain from about £10m a year to below £3m.

Yours, etc,

FRANCIS J. C. ROE,
19 Marryat Road,
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From Professor E. F. Scowen

Sir, May I seek the courtesy of your columns to set the record straight on the subject of the expenditure of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

The figure of £3,263,000 quoted by Lord Zuckerman is the best estimate available of our expenditure for the current financial year.

For the year ending September 30, 1972, the actual expenditure (pre-audit) is £2,582,000. The total of £1,042,907 quoted by Dr Roe relates to 1970-71 and does not include the cost of maintaining the laboratories.

Yours faithfully,

E. F. SCOWEN,
Chairman of the Council,
Imperial Cancer Research Fund,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
November 7.