(DRAFT)

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda 14, Maryland

FOR RELEASE
September 1954

Albert

Mrs. Mary W. Lasker, who has actively aided the progress of medical research through the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, has been appointed a member of the National Advisory Cancer Council, Surgeon General Leonard A. Scheele of the Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, announced today.

As a member of the National Advisory Cancer Council, Mrs. Lasker will advise and make recommendations to the Surgeon General regarding program activities of the National Cancer Institute. This is one of the seven divisions of the National Institutes of Health, main research arm of the Public Health Service. Mrs. Lasker will serve a 4-year term, beginning October 1, 1954.

The Council, established by Act of Congress in 1937, reviews applications for research projects relating to the study of the cause, prevention, or methods of diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Upon recommendations of the Council, the Surgeon General awards grant-in-aid to scientists and institutions whose projects show promise of making valuable contributions to the knowledge of cancer. Under the law, the Surgeon General cannot make any grants unless they have been recommended for approval by the Council.

Six of the 12 members of the Council are leaders in the field of science, and six are leaders in education and public affairs. In addition, there are
two ex-officio members representing the Veterans Administration and the
Department of Defense. The Council meets three times a year at the National
Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, adjacent to Washington, D. C.

With her husband, the late Albert D. Lasker, Mrs. Lasker established,
in 1942, the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, which gives awards through
various health agencies for contributions to psychiatric and medical
research and administration of medical journalism and

Mrs. Lasker is a member of the board of the Memorial Center for
Cancer and Allied Diseases, New York City. Her wide interest and activities
in the field of health and medicine include a 4-year term as a member of the
National Advisory Heart Council of the National Institutes of Health. She
has also served as a trustee of the Menninger Foundation, Topeka, Kansas,
and the Institute for Psychoanalysis, Chicago; as a member of the board of
directors, the executive committee, and secretary of the National Committee
for Mental Hygiene, Group Health Cooperative of New York City, and the
Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York; and as a member of the board
Vice President
and executive committee of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America,
and the American Cancer Society.

Her present civic activities include memberships on the board of the
Park Association of New York City and the board of managers of the New York
Botanical Garden.

Mrs. Lasker was born in Watertown, Wisconsin, and received an A.B.
degree, cum laude, from Radcliffe College. She lives at 29 Beekman Place,
New York City.