Precambrian sediments of any part of the world to-date. In addition, the lowest time range of desmochitinids, similarly as in the Satpuli sediments, has been reported from the Late Precambrian Chuar Group of the Grand Canyon, Arizona. All these evidences support the suggestion that the Garhwal Himalayan argillaceous sequence (at Satpuli) is of Late Precambrian age.

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INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE LATE BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF IONIZING RADIATION, VIENNA

In an International Symposium on the Late Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation which was organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna from 13 to 17 March 1978 the late somatic effects which might appear at considerably later stages after exposure to ionizing radiation from external and internal exposure were discussed by 250 experts from 33 IAEA Member States as well as 9 International Organizations. The effects discussed included induction of benign or malignant tumors, various types of degenerative diseases, disturbances in growth, development and physiological or behaviour responses, impairment of fertility, chromosome aberrations and others observed both in experimental animals and human populations.

Reports on atomic bomb survivors showed that epidemiological studies are still providing so far the extensive and dependable data such as dose-related excess infant mortality, among others, and that work should be continued. The symposium revealed the need for consensus on the methods to be employed in the interpretation of data. It was however noted that establishment of national registry system regarding dosimetry and medical record of radiation workers and its international coordination is essential in order to facilitate any reliable epidemiological surveillance. As far as medical exposure is concerned, the current practices involving radiation exposure seems generally well justified except in some cases where radiation is used of diagnostic purposes on benign disorders.

Of interest and importance was the combined effect of smoking and radon-222 in lung cancer induction. Lung cancer incidence was significantly elevated by combination of the two in the rat, which was also substantiated by the observation in the Hiroshima-Nagasaki study where incidence of lung cancer in the smoking population was shown to be higher than in the non-smoking population.