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MINUTES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

28th MEETING

Held At

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Washington, D.C.

September 7 and 8, 1951

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MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE
September 7 and 8, 1951

The 28th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held at the Atomic Energy Commission in Washington, D.C. on September 7 and 8, 1951.

Attendance

Members of Committee

Dr. E. W. Goodpasture,
Vice Chairman
Dr. Edward A. Doisy
Dr. E. C. Stakman
Dr. J. T. Wearn

Dr. G. Failla attended the meeting as a consultant
Dr. Alan Gregg and Dr. Curt Stern were unable to
be present

Division of Biology and
Medicine

Dr. Shields Warren
Dr. John C. Bugher
Dr. Charles Dunham
Dr. Walter Claus
Dr. Paul Pearson
Dr. N. E. Tolbert
Dr. Gordon Dunning
Dr. Forrest Western
Dr. George A. Hardie
Dr. Harold Plough
Mr. Robert Corsbie
Mr. L. Joe Deal
Mr. Robert O'Neill
Mr. John Simons
Mr. Robert Butenhoff
Mr. Richard Johnston
Mrs. Frances Montgomery

Visitors

Dr. George V. LeRoy
Dr. Herbert Scoville, Jr.
Lt. Colonel G. M. McDonnell

Minutes of
Meeting of
May 18 and 19,
1951

The Chairman convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The first order of business presented to the Committee was a discussion of the minutes of the meeting held at the

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University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, on May 13 and 19, 1951. The minutes were approved unanimously upon a motion by Dr. Wearn and Dr. Doisy.

Dr. Gioacchino
Failla

The Vice Chairman welcomed Dr. Failla who had been recently nominated a member of the Committee.

New Staff
Members

Dr. Warren introduced the new staff members, which included Mr. Robert L. Corsbie, Chief of the Civil Defense Liaison Branch; Dr. Harold Plough, Assistant Chief of the Biology Branch; Dr. Forrest Western and Dr. Gordon Dunning of the Biophysics Branch. The Committee was gratified to learn that these men are leaders in their respective fields and will meet very important needs for the staff. They further commended Dr. Warren for assembling such a fine group.

Report on
Research
Projects

The contractual research programs, totaling 106, which were approved during June, July, and August, as well as those projects which were declined, were reviewed. It was the feeling of the Committee that the programs are progressing satisfactorily. A list of projects is attached as Addendum #1.

National
Science
Foundation

The Committee expressed concern over Dr. Warren's report on the National Science Foundation with respect to the action of The Congress in the proposed cut of its appropriation to \$300,000. Dr. Warren stated that

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unless there is some restoration, the NSF will be non-existent as a functioning organization and they will be unable to take over the AEC Fellowship Programs. He further advised the Committee that the AEC is lending every effort to assist the NSF in order that the unclassified portions of the Fellowship Program may be transferred to it both from the Division of Research and the Division of Biology and Medicine.

BNL-AUI

Dr. Bugher oriented the Committee on the conferences that have been held both with the Commission and with Dr. Berkner and his staff since Dr. Berkner's appointment as president of AUI. The question of overhead compensation to be paid AUI for its managerial services, as well as discussions of this subject before the Commission, were reviewed. Whether the general overhead of AUI shall be audited by AEC will require administrative determination by the Commission. Notwithstanding, the Committee expressed themselves as being in favor of being as liberal as possible in fiscal and administrative matters with the universities that are heading up the National Laboratories in various sections of the country, because without that association and without an agreeable sort of association, the full potentialities of these programs will fail.

[REDACTED]

Civil Defense

Mr. Corsbie reviewed the civil defense program, emphasizing the liaison work that is being carried on with the Federal Civil Defense Administration, the Department of Defense, and other agencies. He also reported on the Federal Civil Defense Administration organization, its programs, radiation detection instrument program, criteria of design for protective construction, and AEC personnel shelter program. The Committee displayed much interest in the arrangements that were being made for the FCDA to participate in the forthcoming tests in Nevada, and also the plans that are being made for testing "backyard type" shelters. It was brought out in the discussions that the greatest need is for some decision to be made at an early date by the Civil Defense authorities that will guide the states in their purchase of satisfactory instruments, as well as give them general information for use in their own localities.

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Radiological Warfare

Dr. Scoville reviewed the present status of the Radiological Warfare problem and stated that since the Noyes panel had disbanded, coordination is being carried on jointly by the Department of Defense and the AEC. He stated that the present program is aimed at obtaining information for the weapons system evaluation group. The information as to the feasibility and the usefulness

of RW as a weapon was given to the Committee in detail.

Polygraph

Dr. Hardie presented a resume of his investigations of the use of the polygraph, or the so-called "lie detector", at Oak Ridge. He advised the Committee that it has been used for pre-employment screening as an adjunct to security considerations in a portion of the sensitive operations at Oak Ridge. It was the view of the Committee that a further study should be made to evaluate the full capabilities and limitations of the instrument before considering Commission-wide use.

Budget -
1952, 1953

Dr. Warren and Dr. Bugher reviewed the budgets for the Division of Biology and Medicine for the fiscal years 1952 and 1953. In this connection, there ensued considerable discussion over a tentative item for \$104,000 placed in the 1953 budget for preliminary architectural and design studies for a wing to the permanent medical center at UCLA. Dr. Bugher stated that it was proposed that the wing would cost approximately \$1,900,000 and it was to be used to house the AEC research project. The question was then presented of whether or not the Commission, as a policy, wished to engage in large-scale construction at the sites of university contractors. It was the sense of the Committee that the AEC should not construct buildings

or units to house atomic energy research projects on university campuses.

In connection with the proposal from UCLA, the Committee was of the opinion that the University should finance the cost of the construction of the building if it is determined that one is required for housing the AEC project. The request for funds for their research project would then be evaluated each year as all other proposals are evaluated by the Research Committee of the Division of Biology and Medicine. This statement regarding the construction of buildings on university campuses reiterates the views of the Committee as stated at their meeting of September 11, 1948.

Greenhouse

Dr. LeRoy provided the meeting with an overall evaluation of the Greenhouse experiments from the medical standpoint. It was an important contribution to the meeting. The Committee agreed that at the earliest possible date these biomedical results should receive wide distribution on an unclassified (or declassified) basis to medical schools and civil defense organizations so that it would be useful in their thinking in problems of the care of atomic bomb casualties and civil defense matters.

In this connection, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that "Shot Easy" ("Greenhouse") be declassified.

Note: A copy of the proposed summary of the Biomedical

Program is available in the files of the
Division of Biology and Medicine.

Buster and
Jangle

Dr. Claus reported on the Division's interest in the series of tests to be held in Nevada, with particular emphasis on the responsibility of the Division of Biology and Medicine in assuring radiological safety to both participants and surrounding populations. Discussion followed on the program for country-wide observation of radioactive fall-out. In connection with these activities, a film depicting the large-scale explosion by the Armed Forces at Dugway, Utah, was shown.

Argonne
Cancer
Hospital

Dr. Dunham led a brief discussion on the status of the Argonne Cancer Hospital and of the overall research program to be undertaken there. The Committee was particularly impressed with the studies on the effects of spleen shielding and such things as regeneration of bone marrow following whole body radiation and the studies of individuals from Elgin State Hospital who have received radium therapeutically several years ago. A report will be made at a later date to the Committee on the work being undertaken at the Hospital in conjunction with the University of Chicago. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy April 1, 1951. (Because of the recent fire at the limestone plant, occupancy is not expected before June 1, 1951).

[REDACTED]

Atomic Bomb
Casualty
Commission

Dr. Bugher advised the Committee of the recent developments of the AECC program. The Committee was pleased to hear that confidence has been restored in the group who are working against great odds in Japan. This has been expedited in part by the formation of a joint advisory committee by the National Academy of Sciences to iron out its problems. The joint advisory committee consists of Dr. Bronk serving as chairman without a vote; Dr. Warren representing the AEC, with Dr. Bugher as his alternate, also without voting privileges; and Drs. Hastings, Wearn, Goodpasture, Curt Stern, Winternitz, Fred Hodges, and Wilburt Davison. This Committee is to be assisted by a Sub-Committee on Implementation composed of an Executive Officer yet to be appointed; Dr. Hardie from the Division of Biology and Medicine; Mr. Meid from the National Academy of Sciences as fiscal agent; and Mr. Merrill Eisenbud from the New York Operations Office (which administers the contract). The Committee commended Dr. Bugher for his outstanding efforts and accomplishments in assisting to establish the program on a firm footing.

Sub-human
Primates

Dr. Dunham explained the problems that are confronting the Division, as well as the U. S. Public Health Service, in getting the sub-human primate studies underway. He

pointed out that two projects already have been set up with NCI funds, and the Subcommittee on Radiation Studies of the National Cancer Advisory Committee has reviewed and accepted several additional proposals. He stated that it had not been determined just which proposals the AEC should accept for support from the \$250,000 which has been set aside by the Division of Biology and Medicine for this study. In this regard, and after considerable discussion, it was the feeling of the Committee that the Division of Biology and Medicine should not commit all the funds until the Subcommittee on Radiation Studies holds its next meeting and the Division has had an opportunity to weigh the merit of the proposals submitted at that time.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, with no specific date or time set for the meeting.

- Addendum
- #1 - List of Research Proposals Accepted and Declined
 - #2 - Ltr to Chm, AEC, from Vice Chm, ACEM, reporting on mtg. of Sept. 7 and 8, 1951
 - ~~#3 - Ltr to Vice Chm, ACEM, from Chm, AEC, acknowledging above letter~~