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MINUTES

115th MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE  
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

November 10-12, 1966

Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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The 115th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, on November 10-12, 1966. The meeting on November 10 took place at the UT-AEC Agricultural Research Laboratory, and on November 11 at the Medical Division of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, Oak Ridge Associated Universities. ACBM members in attendance were Drs. Earl L. Green (Chairman), Philip P. Cohen (Vice-Chairman), Wm. F. Bale, Lemuel C. McGee, Robert D. Moseley, Morell B. Russell, Harvey M. Patt, (Scientific Secretary) and Miss Rosemary Elmo (Executive Secretary). Because of a prior commitment, Dr. Green was present only on November 10 and Dr. Cohen served as Chairman. Dr. Charles L. Dunham, Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, and various members of his staff, were also present. The ACBM was joined by Commissioner Nabrit at its executive session on November 12.

The formal presentation by staff members at each of the meeting sites was followed by a program recapitulation with the Director and his senior staff. This provided the ACBM with an opportunity to examine in some depth various facets of the on-going programs and to ascertain program requirements and future developments. The ACBM noted that the UT-AEC Laboratory provided a rather unique opportunity for long-range studies with large animals. There is some question, however, about the desirability of continuing to maintain all of the animals now on hand, many of which had received poorly-defined radiation exposures in the field. The Committee suggested that a careful review should be made of the present experimental animals and that a critical prospective study of long-term effects should be designed. It expressed the opinion that some aspects of the program, e.g. radiobotany, could be phased out, particularly as staff members leave. The general lack of sophistication in plant work and instrumentation was noted. The ACBM was pleased to learn of the appointment of Dr. Thomas Noonan, which should strengthen the program with large animals. The desirability of interaction with the Medical Division at ORINS, ORAU, and the Biology Division at ORNL was emphasized. The ACBM proposed that a local advisory committee consisting of representatives of the three laboratories could provide a mechanism for fruitful collaboration in regard to the planning and conduct of future programs at the UT-AEC Laboratory. The organization of a committee along these lines will be initiated by DBM.

In its discussion of the ORINS (ORAU) Medical Division program, the ACBM expressed the view that the local advisory committee proposed for the UT program could also be quite effective here. The low and medium dose rate facility in the Medical Division is a unique resource and it is hoped that much of the future program will revolve around it. There was some discussion of the probably diminishing importance of whole body irradiation for diseases such as leukemia, and of the desirability of applying instrumentation developed at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to medical problems at ORINS, ORAU. The ACBM emphasized the importance of constituting a national committee for review of the clinical research protocols. This is due locally at present and a somewhat broader point of view would appear to be desirable.

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Several items of general interest were considered in the executive session.

1. Dr. Dunham advised the ACBM of the FY 1967 appropriation for DBM and of the FY 1968 budgetary outlook. He noted that there were no construction items in the proposed FY 1968 budget. The Committee voiced its concern about this, particularly in regard to the continuing need for facilities to accommodate scientists now being trained.
2. Dr. Dunham indicated that the ACBM may be asked for an opinion regarding the repopulation of Bikini. He referred also to: the interest of the Institute of Child Health and Human Development in the DBM program in this area; the ALE Project (Arid Land Ecology); the recent meeting on the gastro-intestinal tract at Hanford; and his recent trip to the USSR.
3. Dr. Totter provided the Committee with a resume of the development and differentiation conference at DBM last summer. It was noted by the Committee that this area should represent a major objective for DBM and that the Commission should be advised of this.
4. Dr. Bruner described his recent trip to Korea in which he participated in a symposium on nuclear medicine. He also visited ABCC in Japan.
5. Dr. Edington brought the Committee up to date on the irradiated sucrose problem and plans for a comprehensive study at ORNL.
6. Commissioner Nabrit expressed his desire for a close relationship of the ACBM and the Commission. He invited the Committee to suggest individuals who might succeed Dr. Dunham as Director of DBM upon his retirement in June 1967. Commissioner Nabrit indicated that there was no absolute necessity for an individual with clinical training; a broad background and talent for leadership were more important, in his view. In follow-up of this discussion, the ACBM agreed that Dr. Totter would be an appropriate successor to Dr. Dunham. Other possibilities will be examined and the members of the Committee were asked to communicate their suggestions to the Chairman.

The Minutes of the 114th meeting were approved as circulated. The 116th meeting will take place in Washington, D. C., on January 13-14, 1967.

The schedule for subsequent meetings is: March 10-11, 1967, Berkeley, California; May 12-13, 1967, Rochester, New York; June 9-10, 1967, Washington, D. C.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/  
Harvey M. Patt, Scientific Secretary,  
Advisory Committee for Biology & Medicine

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