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MONTHLY STATUS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

FOR

OCTOBER 1949

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U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

Issued November 22, 1949

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V - BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Research Projects Approved During October 1949

University of Oregon Medical School - Dr. Frank B. Queen - "Evaluation of Body Content of Radium in Individuals With No Known Exposure" - \$845.

Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C. - Major G. M. McDonnel, Lt. Col. R. D. Maxwell, et al. - "Antibiotic Therapy in the X-ray Irradiation Syndrome" - \$7,475.

Sloan-Kettering Institute - Dr. Rulon Rawson - "Physiological Effects of Irradiation in Patients Receiving Large Doses of Iodine 131" - \$40,000.

University of North Carolina - Dr. G. C. Kyker - "Tracer Studies and Irradiation in Dental Metabolism" - \$4,500.

Memorial Hospital, New York City - Dr. Helen Woodward and Dr. C. P. Rhoads - "Measurement on Effects of Irradiation on Bone and Bone Phosphatase Activity" - \$3,184.

Lankenau Hospital - Dr. Grace Medes - "Origin and Fate of Amino Acids in Plants and Animals" - \$12,000.

Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of Interior - Dr. Walter A. Chipman - "A Survey of the Accumulation of Radioactivity in Marine Invertebrate Animals" - \$24,500.

Appointments

Dr. William F. Bale, Professor of Radiation Biology, University of Rochester Medical School, and formerly a consultant to the Division of Biology and Medicine, has been appointed Radiobiologist in the Division of Biology and Medicine. He will be responsible for the biological and health aspects of the waste disposal program. This work will be carried out through close cooperation with the Division of Reactor Development. Dr. Bale received his Ph.D. degree in Biophysics from the University of Rochester.

Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine

A special meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held on October 20, 1949, for the purpose of appraising the current and future program of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission as well as the program for Civil Defense Planning. The Committee is concerned with the marked increase in cost of construction at Hiroshima, Kure, and Nagasaki and the proposed

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expansion of the over-all program other than had been given approval by the Atomic Energy Commission. It was the sense of the Committee that it was desirable to continue in abeyance construction at Kure pending a reply from the Chairman of the National Research Council on the following recommendation:

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine urgently recommends that the National Research Council be requested to appraise the present status of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission program, appraise the prospective value of future work, to recommend such modifications as may be desirable in view of changed conditions since the start of the program, and to recommend a time schedule for the program in order that the Atomic Energy Commission may discharge its responsibilities in this area.

Problems relating to Civil Defense Planning were presented by the Deputy Director. A subcommittee consisting of Dr. J. T. Wearn, Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, and Dr. E. C. Stakman was appointed by the Vice Chairman and asked to prepare a statement concerning the biological, medical, and health physics problems which appropriately are the Commission's responsibility in Civil Defense Planning for study by the Committee at the meeting to be held at Oak Ridge on November 12, 1949.

Medical Branch

During the past month an extensive study has been made of Commission policy with respect to the clearance of investigators or subordinate personnel employed on unclassified research contracts. There is substantial agreement on the part of the interested Divisions that there are many research projects in fields related to the atomic energy program in which the probability of developing restricted data is so remote as to be negligible. In such cases it is proposed to eliminate the present requirement for the clearance of a principal investigator since access to restricted data is not contemplated.

Discussions have been held with the Divisions of Research and Reactor Development relative to the establishment of a Commission policy on overhead to be allowed on lump-sum basic research contracts. There is substantial agreement as to both the necessity and the desirability of granting a fixed overhead rate of approximately 10 percent of the Commission's contribution to the research project.

Dr. James H. Sterner, Consultant in Industrial Medicine, and Dr. George A. Hardie, Medical Branch, spent October 10 at Sandia Base and October 11-14 at Los Alamos to get first-hand

knowledge of their industrial medical problems. They contemplate visiting the other AEC installations in the future.

A meeting on Industrial Medicine was held at the Donner Laboratory of the University of California on October 20. It was attended by representatives from Los Alamos, Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, and the Medical Branch of the Washington Office. The principal item discussed was the need for greater uniformity in the medical records among AEC installations.

On October 21 and 22 there was a quarterly meeting of Laboratory Directors and Division Heads of the Atomic Energy Commission Biology and Medicine laboratories. An excellent scientific program consisting of presentations of their current activities was put on each morning by the various research groups in this field supported by the Atomic Energy Commission at Berkeley and at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco. The Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine presided at the meeting and led a very useful discussion of the present state of our knowledge of means to combat acute radiation effects. Developments at the University of Rochester on the use of aureomycin in the experimental radiation syndrome and the observations by the University of California at Los Angeles group on the favorable effect of reduced oxygen tension at the time of irradiation were high lights of this part of the program.

Disaster Monitoring Training

A meeting was held on October 12 in Chicago which was attended by Dr. Warren, Mr. Derry, Dr. Claus, and Mr. Bowman from the Washington Office and by representatives from the New York, Chicago, Los Alamos, Hanford, and Oak Ridge Operations Offices. The meeting was concerned with the use to be made of the stock of monitoring instruments which the Commission is securing. Each of the Operations Offices had been asked to make tentative plans for the use of the equipment. The plans, which were quite diverse, were discussed in detail. In the light of the discussion it is expected that each Operations Office will revise its plan.

Applied Biophysics Branch

Following a visit by members of the Division to Idaho, the Applied Biophysics Branch has submitted plans for the organization of a Health Physics group at Arco. The staff is completing plans of a proposal for a base-line radiation survey that is to be made before operations start.

Members of the Division met with representatives of AFSWP regarding a course in applied radiation protection that would be offered to six medical officers of the National Military

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Establishment that are now at the Regional training centers. The proposed course in applied work would be given by Oak Ridge at the completion of their present studies.

Publication

A supplement to the Journal of Clinical Investigation entitled "The Use of Radioactive and Stable Isotopes in Clinical Investigation" will be distributed during the month of November. (End of UNCLASSIFIED section.)

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