



MINUTES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE
TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING
HELD AT
UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
Rochester, New York
May 18 and 19, 1951

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MINUTES

Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine

May 18 and 19, 1951

The twenty-seventh meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held at the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York on May 18 and 19, 1951 with all members of the Committee present.

Attendance

ATTENDANCE

Members of Committee Dr. Alan Gregg, Chairman
Dr. E. W. Goodpasture, Vice-Chr.
Dr. Detlev W. Bronk
Dr. Edward A. Doisy
Dr. Elvin C. Stakman
Dr. Curt Stern
Dr. Joseph T. Wearn

Staff of AEC and
Division of Biology
and Medicine Dr. Shields Warren
Dr. John C. Bugher
Dr. Walter D. Claus
Dr. Charles L. Dunham
Dr. Paul B. Pearson
Dr. Max R. Zelle
Mr. Howard C. Brown, Jr.
Mr. Beverly Thompson
Mr. Robert Tumbleson
Mrs. Frances R. Montgomery

Visitors Dr. D. S. Anthony
Dr. Henry A. Elair
Dr. William F. Bale
Mr. Merrill Eisenbud
Dr. Harold C. Hodge
Dr. Joe W. Howland
Mr. Carson M. Jarvis
Dr. H. M. Rozendaal
Dr. J. Newell Stannard
Dr. J. H. Sterner

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1951

University of
Rochester,
AEC Project

Dr. Henry A. Blair, Director of the AEC project welcomed the Committee to the University of Rochester. A planned itinerary which included an inspection of the various laboratories impressed the Committee with the importance and quality of the research being undertaken. The Committee commended the site-planning and the construction of the building which houses the project.

Mound
Laboratory

Dr. D. S. Anthony, Director of the Mound Biological Program reviewed the progress that has been made during the past year at the laboratory.

Dr. H. M. Rozendaal summarized the biological program of the Knolls Laboratory.

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1951

The Chairman convened the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Minutes of
Meeting
March 9-10
1951

The first order of business presented to the Committee was a discussion of the minutes of the meeting held at the AEC in Washington, D. C. on March 9 and 10, 1951. The minutes were approved unanimously upon a motion by Dr. Wearn and Dr. Stern.

Report on
Research
Projects
(Official Use
Only)

Research proposals approved and declined since the meeting held in January were discussed by Drs. Pearson, Dunham, Claus and Zelle. In connection with this discussion, and to facilitate the study of the work being undertaken on the projects, the Committee

recommended that the subject of research be more clearly defined by specifically describing the work of each project. They also recommended that in reporting contracts renewed or approved that such contracts be listed in the following order: new projects first, followed by renewals; within the new and renewal category, list the projects in order of priority, and projects which show the most promise. It was stated that this information would be valuable to the Committee in reviewing the list and will afford them a method of approach in their review. It was further recommended that after the investigator's name it should be indicated precisely where the work is being undertaken, i.e., University of California, Berkeley or Los Angeles. The Committee stated also that it should be indicated on the list of projects whether or not the investigator is conducting any graduate work in connection with his AEC contract. They felt very strongly that this is the chief justification for off-site research work.

(A list of these projects is attached to the minutes as Addendum #1)

The Committee concurred in the action of the Division in approving the above projects, and they were of the opinion that proposals were declined in accordance with general policies of the Division of Biology and Medicine.

Industrial
Medicine

Dr. James H. Sterner outlined the Industrial Medicine Fellowship Program. He stated that there were two Fellows in the program this year. Fifty-two inquiries and thirty applications for fellowships have been received for the coming year. Eleven individuals have been accepted for the program and eight Fellowships awarded. He stated further that it appeared desirable that training be broadened to include other schools besides Rochester and Pittsburgh. This has been done and the eight accepted applicants are now being distributed between Harvard, Rochester, Cincinnati and Pittsburgh. Education in the field of occupational medicine now consists of one year of academic and clinical training and one year of in-plant training. No immediate change is forecast in the present two-year program because of need in the field for next year or two. Dr. Sterner was of the opinion that in the near future fellowships should be extended to a three-year term and then an approved course should lead to certification in field of occupational medicine.

Dr. Gregg suggested that a statement should be prepared for publication in "Diplomate" listing the advantages of a career in industrial medicine.

The Committee was in agreement with the recommendation made by Dr. Sterner that there should be a rotation of Chairmanship of the Fellowship Committee.

Review of
Programs and
Activities of
Division of
Biology and
Medicine

Dr. Warren advised the Committee that the House Appropriations Committee had recommended a reduction of \$2,362,000 in the F.Y. 1952 Budget of the Division of Biology and Medicine. He stated that this reduction, if not reinstated, would require curtailment of the basic research program. It was his opinion that this reduction by the House was aimed at so-called "peace-time research" as differentiated from programmatic work.

The Committee was deeply concerned over the reduction and its implications.

After a full discussion the Committee strongly recommended that a statement should be sent to the Commission urging them to take whatever action is necessary to insure the full accomplishment of the Division's fundamental program for F.Y. 1952.

Grants-in-Aid
vs. Contract
Form of Proposal

Mr. Brown reported on the relative advantages and disadvantages of the Grants-in-Aid contracts as systems for conducting basic research. After discussion, the Committee recommended that the contract form of proposal be continued because of its flexibility, its similarity to a Grant-in-Aid, and the appropriateness of the term "contract" with respect to the Commission's mission. They further recommended a uniformity in its administration throughout AEC areas and installations.

Nominees-
Advisory Com-
mittee for
Biology and
Medicine

The Committee considered the nominees to take the place of Dr. Detlev W. Bronk who is retiring as a member of the Committee at the end of the fiscal year, 1951. It was the recommendation of the Committee that an appointment should be proffered to Dr. Gioacchino Failla of Columbia University, effective July 1, 1951.

Atomic Bomb
Casualty
Commission

Dr. Bugher summarized his report on his recent visit to the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission operating at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. The report covered conferences with most of the staff members and a survey of all the properties owned or under the control of the Commission. The recommendations made by Dr. Bugher for the continuance of the program are as follows:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue the fundamental program for both Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the basis of the operating budget of Appendix I of the report.
2. Place the authority and the responsibility for the field operation in the hands of the Director. Decide the broad scientific objectives and general policies at the Washington level, but leave the details of application to the discretion of the only individual competent to make the decisions: the Project Director in Japan.
3. Build two additional structures at Hijiyama for scientific services, two BOQs for male and female American personnel, and one BOQ for Japanese medical personnel. Plans and estimates have been drawn at the level not to exceed \$400,000.
4. Upon completion of the new buildings at Hijiyama, centralize all functions at the laboratory and discontinue mass commuting to Kure and Hiro. All activity

at Kure, such as dependent health, could then be discontinued. It is recognized that some families for the present would have to remain at Kure(North Camp).

5. Consolidate the departments into the organizational plan proposed by Dr. Grant Taylor; that is, five divisions--administrative, clinical, laboratories, pathology, and technical services.

6. Replace American clerical personnel by Japanese Nationals or re-instated American citizens as rapidly as possible consistent with contractual obligations. The American clerical personnel would then be entirely supervisory.

7. Leave any assurances to Japanese staff concerning research time to the discretion of the Director. Japanese staff needs basic training and is not yet competent to do independent research.

8. Continue the adult and pediatric programs, but confine them to the most highly irradiated populations at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

9. Through constant contact with the hospitals and clinics, screen the two populations by observations of significantly ill persons. This procedure will permit the recognition of important disturbances of low probability and at a minimum of cost.

10. Encourage and support the local Japanese activity in vital statistics to maintain a check on the clinical observations.

11. Greatly increase the activity in pathology at both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, utilizing and assisting the facilities of Nagasaki Medical School, and developing the interest and cooperation of the Japanese Pathological Society along the lines already initiated.

12. Terminate the studies on the growth and development of children under Dr. Greulich's program.

13. Discontinue irrelevant departments such as surgery, and obstetrics and gynecology.

14. Continue operational association with the National Institute of Health, but also establish an association with the Japan Science Council. This may be initiated by the National Academy of Sciences.

15. Obtain from the Japanese Government (through NIH following termination of the Occupation) partial support of the project in the form of income tax exemption for American professional staff, rail transportation, and duty exemption for importing scientific equipment and personal effects of staff members. The yen values of these facilities should be accounted as a direct contribution by the Japanese Government.

16. Maintain both financial and scientific planning five years in advance of current dates.

17. Simplify the Washington administration, setting up an Executive Officer and a combined NAS-AEC Advisory Committee. Establish a group of consultants who would also be responsible for suggesting candidates for staff positions. The detailed accounting can be done at Hiroshima so that the Washington accounting function would be that of audit. Purchasing activity could be handled by the New York Operations Office.

The Committee expressed enthusiasm over the report as they felt it was an outstanding document and a fine analysis of the program and agreed that certain phases of the work in Japan should be continued. They further recommended that this action should be forwarded to the Commission for their consideration. (A copy of the full report is on file in the Division of Biology and Medicine.)

Greenhouse

Dr. Warren led a brief discussion on Operation Greenhouse in which Drs. Pearson, Dunham and Bugher participated. Commendations were expressed of the efficiency with which Dr. George LeRoy carried out the biomedical program. A full report is expected to be available about August 1st.

Sub-Human
Primates

Dr. Dunham reported on the Sub-Human Primate study and stated that the National Cancer Institute has an advisory committee on radiation biology which have been appointed by the NIH to assist the National Cancer Institute with the selection of research projects for the sub-human primate study. The Committee is composed of:

Dr. James H. Sterner, Chairman (Univ. of Rochester)
Dr. Andrew H. Dowdy (Univ. of California, Los Angeles)
Dr. Leon Jacobson (University of Chicago)
Dr. J. Paul Quigley (University of Tennessee)
Dr. Austin Brues (ANL)
Dr. A. E. Brandt (Consultant) NYOO

Fellowships

Dr. Pearson summarized the Fellowship program since its inception in 1947-48. He stated that 650 fellows had been given awards which included fellows in the physical sciences as well as those in the biological and medical sciences.

It was the sense of the committee that the Fellowship program had materially aided the Commission with their research problems by training young scientists for work in the laboratories and institutions.

The transfer of the Fellowship program to the National Science Foundation was discussed. The members of the committee were in agreement that such a transfer would be advisable at the close of the academic year 1951-52 with the exception of Industrial Medicine Fellows and Health-Physics Fellows who need specialized training in AEC laboratories.

Absence of
Members

Dr. Gregg and Dr. Stern advised the Committee that they would be out of the country until the spring of 1952, and therefore, they would be unable to attend any meetings until that time.

Next
Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at the AEC in Washington, D. C. on September 7 and 8, 1951.

ADDENDUM

- #1 - List of Projects (Page 1 through 22)
- #2 - Letter to Chairman, AEC from Chairman, ACEM
(Pages 1-2)