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118

MINUTES

118TH MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

711017

Atomic Energy Project
University of Rochester
Rochester, N. Y.

May 12-13, 1967

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The 118th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held at the University of Rochester Atomic Energy Project on May 12-13, 1967. Committee members present were Drs. Philip P. Cohen (Vice-Chairman), William F. Bale, A. J. Haagen-Smit, Lemuel C. McGee, James B. Wyngaarden, Harvey M. Patt (Scientific Secretary) and Miss Rosemary Elmo (Executive Secretary). Dr. Earl L. Green was unable to attend owing to illness and Dr. Cohen served as chairman. Two other members of the ACBM (Drs. M. B. Russell and R. D. Moseley, Jr.) were also unable to be present because of prior commitments. The meeting was attended by Dr. Charles L. Dunham, Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, his successor, Dr. John R. Totter, and various members of the DBM staff.

The research program of the UR Project embraces activities in molecular, cellular systems, and animal biology. A segment of the program was presented in nine formal papers oriented to basic and applied cancer research, membrane function, aerosol and inhalation toxicity, and behavioral toxicology. There was also an opportunity for informal conferences with staff members. The ACBM was generally impressed with the effective presentation of the research and noted with interest the effort to develop a behavioral research program in a solid biological science environment.

The graduate teaching program was reviewed for the ACBM by Drs. Neuman and Rothstein. A core program that cuts across departmental lines is being developed in molecular and cellular biology. Members of the UR Project are taking the lead in this promising development. The project also functions as a department within the University with graduate programs in biophysics, radiobiology, and toxicology. Its important role in the furthering of graduate education at the University was noted by the ACBM.

Long-range objectives of the research program were described by the Co-directors, Drs. Neuman and Rothstein, in a closed meeting with the Committee. It is hoped to develop a balanced program which will cover various facets of biological organization, for example from molecular to population studies. As a step in this direction, certain ongoing programs have been contracted and others expanded. Some strengthening of radiological physics is contemplated. The procedure for internal review by a policy committee of senior scientists was discussed briefly in response to a query from the ACBM.

In its meeting with Dr. Dunham and Dr. Totter the Committee noted with pleasure the recent announcement of Dr. Totter's appointment as Dr. Dunham's successor. This was followed by some discussion of policy and planning in regard to DBM activities and the role of the ACBM. It was suggested that this should be a major item for consideration at the September meeting. In the meantime, however, the Committee endorsed the proposal that the DBM structure include provision for both a Deputy Director and a Special Assistant to the Director.

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Several items of general interest were presented to the Committee by Drs. Dunham, Totter and Bruner of the DBM and by Dr. Doran of the Division of Operational Safety. Dr. Dunham called attention to 1) the recent Federal Radiation Council report on uranium miners. This will be discussed at the June meeting; 2) the proposed contraction of the high altitude and civil effects programs; 3) the conclusion by an informal panel that there seems to be no strong indication at present for meson applications in radiobiology and therapy; 4) the candidacy of Dr. Isadore Edelman for the directorship of the UCLA Project; 5) the appointment of Dr. Victor Bond as Associate Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory, and of Dr. Eugene Cronkite as Chairman of its Medical Department; 6) the present status of the Rongelap thyroid tumor survey by Dr. Conard.

Dr. Totter reviewed the recent Bio-Medical Program Directors' meeting at Livermore. He emphasized that the Livermore program now appears to be focused on fall-out problems in a rather unique way. He also summarized briefly the AEC's role in the International Science Fair which was held on May 10 in San Francisco.

The present status of the Palomares incident (code name, Indalo) was reviewed by Dr. Bruner. There is some question as to whether the detectable radioactivity is due entirely to plutonium or in large part to natural sources and this matter will be considered in greater detail at the June meeting of the ACBM.

Dr. Doran reported on the purpose, nature, and progress of the correlative study of lifetime health and mortality experience of AEC and AEC-contractor employees with radiation exposure. He emphasized the cohort nature of the study and the desirability of enlarging the follow-up by including additional AEC-supported groups. The ACBM endorsed this proposal, particularly in the light of the possibility of different exposure histories at various installations.

The ACBM was advised by Dr. Totter of the correspondence between Dr. C. Calsoyas, a former Livermore employee, and the Commission. It was proposed that this matter should be reviewed with Dr. Spofford English at the June meeting.

The Minutes of the 117th meeting were approved after deletion of the inserted reference to the presentation by Dr. T. Jukes. The 119th meeting will be held in Washington on June 8-9, 1967. A three-day meeting may be desirable and Dr. Totter will advise the Committee about this. The September meeting is scheduled for September 7-8 in Washington.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harvey M. Patt

Harvey M. Patt, Scientific Secretary
Advisory Committee for Biology and
Medicine

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