

measurements have been conducted in collaboration with Dr. J.J. Nickson of the Health Division.”

These brief references to the study of radium in humans indicate an interest in the subject at the newly formed Argonne National Laboratory. What was lacking were radium patients to study, and what was needed was someone to find such patients. By 1950 many of the staff who were to play key roles in the radium program were already assembled at Argonne. They were Brues and Norris of the Biological and Medical Research (BIM) Division; R.J. Hasterlik and A.J. Finkel of the Health Division; and J.E. Rose, L.D. Marinelli, C.E. Miller, A.F. Stehney, R.E. Rowland, and H.F. Lucas of the Radiological Physics (RPY) Division.

The three divisions mentioned above were involved in the radium studies during the 1950s. Indeed, their research interests overlapped to the extent that for a time these efforts were combined. In July of 1950 all research efforts were assigned to BIM under Brues and three associate division directors, H. Lisco, L.D. Marinelli, and E.L. Powers. Two service divisions remained, RPY under Rose and Health Services under Hasterlik. This merging of the research staff, however, was hardly noticeable; staff members remained in their original divisions and continued their research, but apparently they were financed as if they were all in the one division.

No record has been located that indicates when this merger was dissolved, but it certainly did not last very long. A clear indication of this was a reorganization of the RPY Division on July 1, 1953. On that date all of the health physics operations, including monitoring and analytical chemistry, were transferred into the Industrial Hygiene and Safety Division, leaving only research activities within the RPY Division.

Even before its move from the University of Chicago location at Site B, the RPY Division had started to measure natural radioactivity in samples from the new Argonne site near Lemont and its environs, to determine baseline levels of environmental radioactivity for evaluation of possible future contamination. In the course of this work, Stehney discovered that water from deep wells in the area contained radium concentrations hundreds of times greater than the concentration in Lake Michigan (Stehney 1955). These were the only instances of high radium levels in water known at that time. Stehney and the members of his group expanded the scope of the measurements, and Lucas eventually mapped a large region of the upper Midwest that had high concentrations of radium in well water (Lucas 1985).

The RPY Division staff also undertook the difficult task of measuring the body radium levels and the daily rates of intake of persons drinking water