

## **6 The Termination of the Radium Studies Program**

In 1981, Dr. W.K. Sinclair resigned his position as Argonne's Associate Laboratory Director (ALD) for Biomedical and Environmental Research to accept the presidency of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement. (Sinclair had held this Argonne position since it was established in April 1974. Previously the biology program had been under the ALD for Physical Research.) Argonne's director, Dr. Walter Massey, appointed Dr. R.E. Rowland the interim ALD, effective September 1, 1981, and asked him to form a committee to search for a permanent ALD. Rowland took this opportunity to indicate that he would not accept the position of ALD on a permanent basis and that he would not return to the RER Division as its director. He retired in February 1983. Dr. Harvey Drucker was hired to fill the position; he arrived in August 1983.

In May 1983 the RER Division was merged with the Environmental Impact Studies Division to form the Environmental Research (ER) Division, with Dr. P.F. Gustafson as the acting division director. Subsequently, in the fall of 1984, the CHR was transferred to the BIM Division, and the medical records and many of the staff ultimately moved from Building 203 to Building 202. Over the next decade several different staff members in turn took on the administrative responsibility for the program. Because of these changes and budgetary uncertainties, many of the staff elected to transfer to more stable programs elsewhere at Argonne.

With the continual reduction in funding and the transfer of personnel and program responsibility, the character of the program changed markedly. Very few patients were brought to the Laboratory after 1984. However, the staff continued to record the deaths of known cases, and periodically death certificates were obtained.

At the beginning of Fiscal Year 1991 the U.S. Department of Energy shifted management for the project (now called the Internal Emitter Program) from the Office of Health and Environmental Research of the Office of Energy Research (OER), where it had long resided, to the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health (ESH). The epidemiology programs that had been funded by OER were now placed in ESH under the Office of Epidemiology and Health Surveillance, under Dr. Robert Goldsmith. In January 1991, a letter from Dr. Harry Pettingill, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, to Drucker requested that responsibility for the Internal Emitter Program be transferred from the BIM Division back to the ER Division. In addition, Pettingill requested that Dr. Robert Thomas of the ER Division assume management responsibility for the project, beginning in October 1991.