

NUCLEAR MEDICINE AT BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY*

Harold L. Atkins

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NOTICE

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Introduction

Traditionally the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was the governmental agency concerned with fostering the development of Nuclear Medicine as a discipline. In recent years a problem area has developed with relationship to responsibilities of governmental agencies for clinical research. The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) has inherited Nuclear Medicine from the now defunct AEC. While an extensive review of the research program in Nuclear Medicine in ERDA has been carried out and there is at present continued support, the long term outlook is somewhat uncertain because of the rather more defined mission orientation of ERDA compared to the AEC. Meanwhile, no other governmental agency has assumed responsibility for Nuclear Medicine as a discipline although support has been provided along the line of organ or disease oriented research from the National Institutes of Health.

The National Laboratories, now under ERDA administration, provide exceptional facilities and opportunities for interdisciplinary research. Especially interesting is the possibility for interaction with scientists in non-medical fields such as chemists, accelerator physicists, engineers and mathematicians. At Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) a Nuclear Medicine Program exists which attempts to exploit the resources available to it and to pursue a broad program in radiopharmaceutical research. The scope of the program is such as to encompass all the aspects of such research from concepts of a radiopharmaceutical, perception of a need, development of nuclide production techniques, labeling and synthetic methods, animal distribution studies and clinical investigation. Two broad and complementary efforts exist, one in basic research and understanding

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