



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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11 October 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR (See Distribution)

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Fifteenth Joint Medical Research Conference

The following were present at the fifteenth conference in Room 4-B-737, the Pentagon, 0900 - 1130 hours, 10 October 1962:

B/Gen Robert E. Blount, AMR&DC, D/A
Col Jack Bollerud, AFRST-SC-LS, D/AF
Col Ralph W. Bunn, ARO-OCRD, D/A
Dr. F. J. Frese, Jr., ODDR&E
Dr. Frank W. Hartman, AFCSG, D/AF
Col Karl H. Houghton, AFCSG, D/AF
Dr. R. A. Kern, Temple University Hospital (Chairman)
Dr. Carl E. Pruett, ODDR&E
Dr. Marion B. Sulzberger, AMR&DC, D/A
Col Carl F. Tessmer, AMR&DC, D/A
Dr. Herbert L. Walter, ODASD(Health & Medical)

Minutes of the fourteenth meeting were approved as published.

The chairman requested distribution to the conference members of DOD Instruction 5129.40, dated 6 September 1962, establishing DDR&E Advisory Panel on the Medical and Biological Sciences (attached). He also advised the conference that all replies received to date from persons invited to be panel members have been favorable. As of this date, all but one of the selected members have been given preliminary clearances and formal invitations to join the panel have been extended. Colonel Houghton reported that the date of 30 November 1962 is acceptable to the host laboratory, Aerospace Medical Research Laboratories, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The chairman instructed the secretariat to proceed with arrangements for the first meeting of the Advisory Panel on that date.

Inasmuch as the services will not report the results of their reviews of the report of IDA Task-20 until 1 December 1962, discussion of this item was deferred until the December conference.

Dr. Hartman reviewed a report by Dr. Zaret, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, New York University, on extensive retinal lesions and other eye damage produced experimentally in rabbit eyes exposed to laser beams and on two cases of retinal impairment sustained by humans accidentally exposed to such beams. Discussion revealed that little work has been done as yet in service laboratories on the biological effects of laser beams. It was agreed that such investigations should be stimulated. Dr. Sulzberger felt that the Army laboratory at Fort Knox had a potential and suggested that approaches from a dermatological aspect would be valuable. Dr. Hartman said that Air Force had laser research under way at Rome, New York, but it was

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mostly in the fields of physics and electronics. Air Force has requested a research contract proposal from Dr. Zaret. Conferees agreed to report at the next meeting on efforts initiated by service laboratories in this field.

Dr. Hartman brought to the attention of the conferees a plea from the Society of Nuclear Medicine that Food and Drug Agency of HEW not be given authority to establish new and tighter controls over the use of radioisotopes in medicine, inasmuch as this would establish a conflicting jurisdiction with AEC which has for many years exercised satisfactory supervision in this area. Dr. Tessmer and Dr. Houghton, both radiobiologists, agreed that AEC's administration had been satisfactory. This led to a discussion of the impact of new FDA regulations and the new FDA law on medical research. The FDA regulations published 10 August 1962 in the Federal Register were due to become effective in 60 days, i.e., today. NIH has protested vigorously against these new rules, as have the Surgeons General of Army and of Air Force. There is some question as to whether the new regulations will actually be put into effect, hence it was felt that additional protest from OSD at this time was not indicated.

Similarly, in view of the fact that the new law pertaining to FDA authority over use of experimental drugs in medical research is awaiting presidential signature, it was agreed that it would not be timely or appropriate for OSD to take a position in this matter. The application of the new authority of FDA will be followed closely by the service laboratories to determine if, in fact, there is a definite hindrance to sound medical research. Any such evidence could then be used as the basis for a protest as to the administration of the new law.

Dr. Blount informed the conference that the report from Dr. Tigertt on the proposed program for medical research in Southeast Asia will be delayed further due to the diversion of Dr. Tigertt's efforts to support an emergency investigation requested by the State Department. The study on the S. E. Asia program has been well started but its completion date is contingent on resolution of the above emergency.

Dr. Kern reported on a recent meeting held at Great Lakes on respiratory virus infections and urged closer collaboration between services in this field of investigation.

Dr. Bollerud reported that the monograph on poisonous marine life by Dr. Halstead is now in preliminary production.

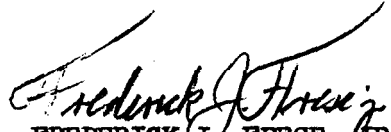
The question of future support for the Library of Congress (Dr. Jacobius) project in cataloguing and abstracting research reports in aviation (aero-space) medicine was raised once more. Again, and finally, none of the services expressed interest in providing further support to this program.

The conference discussed the many problems associated with the identification and retention of medical and biological research personnel in the services.

It was agreed that some little progress had been made but that the scope of the problem extended well beyond medicine and biology, encompassing all engineering and scientific disciplines. Enabling action consequently will probably come slowly.

The date of the next meeting of the Joint Conference was set as Wednesday, 14 November 1962, in room 1-E-780, the Pentagon, at 0900.

The meeting was adjourned by the chairman at 1130.


FREDERICK J. FRESE, JR.
Col, USAF-MC
Chief, Medical Sciences Div.
OAD(R)

1 Incl
DOD Instruction 5129.40

Distribution

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