



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

23 November 1963

212

MEMORANDUM FOR (See Distribution)

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Twenty-eighth Joint Medical Research Conference

The following were present at the twenty-eighth conference in Room 3-E-869, The Pentagon, 0900-1115, 13 November 1963:

E/General Robert E. Blount, AMR&DC, D/A  
 Dr. F. J. Frese, Jr., OAD/R, ODDR&E  
 Col Herschel E. Griffin, OASD/M - ODASD/H&M  
 Dr. Frank W. Hartman, AFMSP, D/AF  
 Col T. E. Huber, OCRD-ARO, D/A  
 Dr. Richard A. Kern, Temple University Hospital, Chairman  
 R/Adm William N. New, MC, USN, ODASD/H&M, OASD/M  
 Capt John A. O'Donoghue, MC, USN, BuM&S, D/N  
 Capt Carl E. Pruett, MC, USN, OCNO, D/N  
 Lt Col Robert E. Robards, AFRSTA-SC, D/AF  
 Col John M. Talbot, AFMSP, D/AF  
 Lt Col Richard R. Taylor, AMR&DC, D/A  
 R/Adm W. Welham, MC, USN, BuM&S, D/N

The chairman, Dr. Kern, called the meeting to order. Since written copies of the minutes had not been distributed in advance of the meeting, the executive secretary gave a verbal report on the proceedings of the twenty-seventh conference. This was accepted tentatively pending distribution of the written minutes.

The secretary reported on the current status of the proposed memorandum of understanding between the Department of HEW(FDA), and the Department of Defense pertaining to the clinical testing of new drugs. An agreement in principle has been reached and the respective legal staffs are preparing a formal version. The chairman instructed the secretary to distribute copies of this final draft to the members of the conference when available.

The secretary also reported on the status of the revised edition of the booklet describing the medical research facilities of DOD, announcing that the edited stencils had been received for proof-reading. It is expected to go to the printers shortly.

A report was also given on the status of the restructuring of the research budget program and the proposed utilization of the Joint Advisory Committees, noting that responses to the proposal had been received from the Services' Assistant Secretaries (R&D) and were being studied with a view to preparing a DOD Instruction to the Services.

WNRC:

RG: 330

ACCESSION#

BOX# 17

FILE NAME:

67A-4860  
212 Medical Science 1963

The chairman reported briefly on the recent meeting of the DDR&E Panel on the Medical and Biological Sciences at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute, terming it the best held so far. He reminded the Air Force representatives that they would be the host Service for the next meeting of the Panel and asked that they be prepared to nominate a host laboratory at the next conference.


Dr. Kern then informed the conference that through informal contacts with certain civilian medical consultants to the Services he had learned that there was some concern over the manner in which the support of the radiobiology research in the in-house laboratories was being administered. He said that the concern related to uncertainties as to the continuity of the financial support by the Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA), to an abrupt and apparently whimsical shifting of such support, and very specifically to the "draining" of other in-house laboratories to support the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRRI). Admiral Welham said that he had been reliably informed that there had been actual efforts on the part of DASA to proselyte key personnel from the Navy Radiological Defense Laboratory (NRDL), to improve the staffing at AFRRI. Dr. Kern pointed out that the missions of NRDL and AFRRI, and their respective capabilities, were so different that there should be no conflicts. He said he was convinced that any sudden cessation of support for NRDL by DASA would be disastrous to the DOD research program in radiobiology. Admiral Welham said that in his opinion AFRRI and NRDL should be equally supported by DASA. Colonel Taylor recalled that four years ago DASA and the three Services had many meetings in an effort to reach agreement on the definition and scope of so-called "weapons effects research." Even then, he said, concern was felt about the danger of the DASA-AFRRI combination taking over all radiobiologic research in the DOD. He noted that the Services had given some thought to increasing the amount of financial support for radiobiologic research within their individual budget programs, but this was difficult in view of the recent Congressional trend to "plateau" research funds, and also would raise questions of duplication of effort. Dr. Kern warned the conference members that similar difficulties could arise wherever an in-house Service laboratory was forced to rely too heavily on a source of funds not under the control of its own Service. He said that while he did not feel there was any immediate danger, the heavy reliance of the Naval School of Aviation Medicine laboratories at Pensacola on NASA for financial support should be watched carefully. He felt that the whole question of the reliance of Service in-house laboratories on non-Service-controlled support has dangerous potentials. Colonel Taylor stated that in the past fiscal year, an increase of \$1.5 million in the needs of AFRRI had resulted in DASA recalling an equivalent amount of support from the three Services without advance warning. In the case of the Army, this amounted to the abrupt loss of \$700,000 worth of support on which it had counted and depended. Colonel Talbot assured Dr. Kern that he did not feel that any Air Force in-house bio-medical laboratories were becoming too dependent on NASA. Colonel Robards expressed concern about the more long-range dangers of the demands for bio-medical research personnel which would be created as a result of NASA's expansion of facilities at Houston

and at Ames. Dr. Frese asked the conference members what changes, if any, should be made in the DASA - AFRRI relations. Admiral Welham felt that at a minimum DASA should be prevented from abrupt changes in its support of the various DOD laboratories. He said that if a decision is reached that all radiobiologic research for DOD was to be done at AFRRI, it would require a tremendous expansion of their present plans. It would also result in a tremendous loss of research personnel to the DOD programs since many would chose not to move to AFRRI. And finally, it would have to be done on a very gradual, long-term basis if the destruction of the whole radiobiologic research program of DOD were to be avoided.

The chairman, Dr. Kern, next initiated a round-table discussion of the requirements of the DOD research program for physicians in uniform. The consensus was that there is a definite need for an increase in manpower spaces for this type of individual, but that it was equally urgent to find and stimulate capable youngsters to enter such a career. It was felt that the best source of such career investigators would be through the establishment of clinical research groups in the larger Service hospitals so that the younger physicians would have exposure to the meaning and necessity of bio-medical research. It was noted, however, that the establishment of such clinical research groups would have to be carefully planned so as not to conflict with or duplicate the clinical research efforts of the National Institutes of Health. The conference agreed that there was a definite need to "sell" research to the more senior, clinically-oriented medical officers who manage the military medical services. It was also agreed that career officers in the 10 to 20 years service range should not be overlooked as a possible source for recruiting physician-investigators.

There being no other business before the conference, it was adjourned by the chairman at 1115.

The next meeting will be held in Room 4-B-854, The Pentagon, at 0900, 11 December 1963.

  
FREDERICK J. FRESE, JR.  
Col, USAF, MC  
Executive Secretary, OAD-R

incl  
Distribution List

Distribution List

B/General Robert E. Blount, AMR&DC, D/A  
Col Jack Bollerud, AFRSTA-SC, D/AF  
Col H. E. Griffin, OASD/M - ODASD/H&M  
Dr. Wm W. Hammerschmidt, DSB, ODDR&E  
Dr. Frank W. Hartman, AFMSP, D/AF  
Col T. E. Huber, OCRD-ARO, D/A  
Dr. Richard A. Kern, Temple University Hospital, Chairman  
Dr. N. Marcuvitz, AD-R, ODDR&E  
R/Adm William N. New, MC, USN, ODASD/H&M, OASD/M  
Capt J. A. O'Donoghue, MC, USN, BuM&S, D/N  
Capt J. P. Pollard, MC, USN, ONR  
Capt C. E. Pruett, MC, USN, OCNO, D/N  
Lt Col Robert E. Robards, AFRSTA-SC, D/AF  
Dr. C. W. Sherwin, DD/R&T, ODDR&E  
Dr. M. B. Sulzberger, AMR&DC, D/A  
Col J. M. Talbot, AFMSP, D/AF  
Col R. R. Taylor, AMR&DC, D/A  
R/Admiral W. Welham, MC, USN, Bu&MS, D/N