



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
 NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
 BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

December 13, 1974

Mrs. Lloyd B. Wilford
 165 Woodlawn Avenue
 Decatur, Georgia 30030

Dear Mrs. Wilford:

In typical bureaucratic fashion it is highly probable that most of the copies of your November 7, 1974, letter to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare will end up on my desk. You will, as a consequence, probably receive several essentially identical responses.

We are enclosing a copy of our reply to Senator Munn and copies of the enclosures. As an old protozoologist, I can assure you that the Department does not propose, permit, or countenance research that confuses patients with paramecium. I trust that the letter indicates our long concern with these issues. I will be glad to send you copies of our policy issuances dating back as far as 1953, if you are interested. They do not reflect the interests of immoral and depraved persons.

Doctor Metzger appears to have relied on newspaper "morgue" material that was years old and grossly inaccurate. If medical research was carried out in such a sloppy fashion we would still be giving mothers thalidomide. The accusations are a libel on both the Department of Defense and the University of Cincinnati.

Senator Kennedy's concerns were widely circulated in the Cincinnati papers, yet none of the patients or their survivors made any issue of the matter. The University refused to release the patients' names not only because of legal restrictions, but because of severe survivors' reactions to a previous attempt by a T.V. network to document the study with the University's cooperation.

Several of the Ewing's sarcoma cases treated at the hospital are still alive and well several years after treatment, though the average survival of such patients is less than 6 months. It is to be regretted that this incident has halted what promised to be a very significant addition to our armamentarium against metastatic cancer. Similar work is going ahead in Canada, and in future years this country may well move even further ahead of us in the field of radiotherapy.

Sincerely yours,

D. T. Chalkley, Ph.D.
 Chief, Office for Protection
 from Research Risks
 Office of the Director

Enclosure

cc:
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