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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
 INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 4, 1972

Robert W. McConnell, M.D., President
 American College of Radiology
 20 North Wacker Drive
 Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Dr. McConnell:

It is clear from your letter of January 3, that the American College of Radiology has taken a lot of trouble to respond to my request for advice about the radiation experiments of Dr. Eugene Saenger, and I appreciate your responsiveness.

In addition, I appreciate your willingness to discuss any points which still concern me.

My questions originally fell into five categories:

- I. Animal Data and Basis For Trying This Therapy
- II. Follow-up Studies To Determine Effects
- III. Control Groups To Determine Helpfulness or Harmfulness
- IV. Private Patients
- V. Trickery, Purpose, Risk

You seem to have answered question number four.

I will keep my questions today in the same categories as before. Considering all the conclusions which your team has reached, and considering the small number of patients involved (82), I hope and expect that the attached questions will not be difficult.

Robert W. McConnell, M.D.

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Meanwhile, I will list some of the tentative conclusions I reach from your January report, in order to find out if I understand or not. In case of a misinterpretation, I would welcome correction.

- (1) The ACR report confirms that there is no control-group or systematic effort to assess comparative benefit or risk of Dr. Saenger's special cancer therapy.
- (2) The ACR report confirms that the patients were not thoroughly informed about the extra discomfort, the military aspects, or the possibly lethal effects.
- (3) The ACR report confirms that the patients were given hope that the treatment might prolong their lives, shrink their tumors, retard development of metastases, and/or relieve their pain.
- (4) The ACR report fails so far to show that there was basis in prior animal or human experiments to justify offering this hope.
- (5) The ACR report confirms that the mixed results can not be correlated with a specific treatment because many of Dr. Saenger's patients received several different kinds of treatment.
- (6) The ACR report fails so far to deal with the possible harm suffered by some patients in the course of this experimentation.

Very truly yours,



Mike Gravel