

Minutes of the Medical Committee, 6 Dec 46

1. Because of the nature of this committee and its functions, it was agreed to change the name of the group from the Medical Advisory Committee of the Manhattan Engineering District to the Medical Committee of the Manhattan Engineer District. The functions of this committee during the interim period until the atomic commission assumes overall authority may be set down as making recommendations on the following aspects of Manhattan District Medical work:

- a) Coordination of the activities of the medical research program of the Manhattan Engineer District.
- b) Facilitation and standardization of health and safety control for the Manhattan Engineer District.
- c) Coordination and direction of the activities of the medical research division in the solution of industrial problems.

2: Discussion as to the nature of the 15% clause in the Rochester, Columbia, Chicago, Western Reserve and California contracts was carried out with emphasis on the difficulties of interpretation of this clause by non-medical personnel.

3. The proposed contract with the University of Virginia under Dr. Alfred Chanutin was recommended for approval. His proposed study of the protein fractions responsible for the intoxication or death of the irradiated animal material is outlined in Appendix A and covers a field of research not duplicated by any present program.

4. A proposed contract with Dr. Poole of the Physics Department of Ohio State University was discussed at length. It was decided that while Dr. Pool has recognized ability in his field, and that his services would be invaluable to the Medical Division, he should first review and be brought up to date in the project developments by conferences with Dr. Failla and others prior to resubmitting a formal request for contract. Accordingly, it was requested that security clearance be carried out and such conferences arranged. Declassification of some reports and future publications of MPTS medical volumes will relieve the present situation where good workers propose programs which are already underway.

5. The temporary quarters for the new biological project at the Monsanto Chemical Company at Dayton were approved. The expenditure of the sum of \$46,000 for the first year's research work was approved.

6. The proposed contract with the University of Kansas under Dr. Frank Hoecker was raised but not discussed pending further investigation by a member of the Medical Division.

7. The proposed contract with the University of Tennessee under the direction of Dr. Henry Wills was approved. This contract, shown in Appendix B, is a continuation of the work of kidney physiology carried out at the Rochester Project, and is not duplicated in other

REPOSITORY AZZAJUTA  
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COLLECTION N/A  
BOX No N/A  
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authorized projects.

8. Approval was granted for a visit of Dr. G. Failla of the Columbia Project to the Berkeley Project for the discussion of problems in connection with his work.

9. The large overall program of the biological group at the Monsanto Chemical Company at Clinton Laboratories was briefly reviewed, and the opinion expressed that the scope of the project was much too large and involved much unnecessary duplication of previous work. This will be clarified as the new group becomes oriented on the overall program of the division. Two specific recommendations were made in view of the/staffing and space difficulties:  
current

- a) That a budget of \$200,000 be authorized for biological research covering the period up to 1 July 1947.
- b) That the chronic exposure program already instituted under the direction of Dr. Paul Henshaw be continued.

10. Approval was recommended for the proposal raised by several of the laboratory directors for the privilege of setting up certain unrestricted areas in which problems related to nonclassified isotope research could be discussed with non-project individuals who desire information on correct techniques, apparatus, etc, to be used in such work. It was suggested that the correct procedures for such action be worked out with the security and declassification sections.

Note: (Should not apply to work being undertaken at Govt labs such as C.L., Argonne, Los Alamos and production areas.)

11. The problem of disposal of contaminated materials was raised. To avoid complicated discussion, it was suggested that Drs. Stone, Contrell and Friedell and the undersigned submit their ideas on this subject in writing for discussion at a future meeting at which time definite recommendations will be made. At that time, the summary of all existing tolerances, now in preparation will be submitted by the Division.

12. Possible recommendation of a qualified Medical Director to the Atomic Energy Commission were discussed. No formal decision was made. There was common agreement that training of young doctors in this field was essential and should start soon.

13. A request was received from the investigative group and engineers of the Monsanto Chemical Company at Clinton Laboratories for information on the correct height for future exhaust stacks. It was decided that if any special materials were to be vented into such stacks, they should be constructed at least 175 feet in height.

14. The scope of the research program as prepared by the Medical Research Branch was approved. This is shown in Appendix C.

15. It was suggested that the next meeting of this committee be

held in approximately one month, the exact date and place to be decided.

Respectfully submitted,

STAFFORD L. WARREN, MD  
Chairman, Medical Committee

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