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MINUTES

116TH MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

January 13, 1967 - Room E-301, AEC HQS, Germantown, Maryland  
January 14, 1967 - Room 1050, "H" St. Office, Washington, D. C.

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The 116th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held at AEC Headquarters, Germantown, Maryland on January 13, and at the AEC "H" Street Office, Washington, D. C. on January 14, 1967. Committee members present were Drs. Earl L. Green (Chairman), Philip P. Cohen (Vice Chairman), William F. Bale, Robert D. Moseley, Morell B. Russell, Harvey M. Patt (Scientific Secretary) and Miss Rosemary Elmo (Executive Secretary). Dr. Lemuel C. McGee was unable to attend. Drs. A. J. Haagen-Smit and J. B. Wyngaarden, whose appointments to serve on the ACBM are not yet effective, were able to attend this meeting since the discussions were unclassified. Dr. Charles L. Dunham, Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, and various members of his staff, were also present.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Dunham with some introductory remarks about the scope of AEC-supported basic research and the question of an appropriate emphasis on offsite and onsite programs. This was followed by Dr. Claus' discussion of new directives for a cost-benefit analysis by all government agencies. The cost-benefit analysis represents the central theme of an integrated planning-programming-budgeting system (PPBS). A precise identification of DBM goals and objectives will apparently be required. Dr. Totter reviewed the DBM objectives as presently formulated and the relevancy of their basic and applied aspects. He also raised the perennial question as to whether onsite activities should take precedence over offsite and whether one national laboratory should be promoted at the expense of another.

The ACBM expressed the opinion that a continuing look at goals was essential and that programs should be examined from the viewpoint of uniqueness as well as relevance. It was emphasized that basic research should not be considered as a separate entity but rather as an integral and necessary part of the events leading to the achievement of any goal. The Committee felt that it was important to maintain an appropriate balance of the several components of the DBM program in order to provide a desirable flexibility. Each case should be judged on its merits. There is an implicit challenge in PPBS which requires a careful evaluation of the relation of science to society.

In other presentations, the ACBM was informed of the status of the food irradiation program by Drs. Edington and Whitehair and was briefed on the high altitude sampling program and the appropriateness of continuing the program beyond FY 68 or 69, by Messrs. Holland and Marlow, (DBM) and Dr. Kosta Telegadas (ESSA). Apropos of the latter, the ACBM suggested that it might be fruitful to arrange a conference of representatives of interested agencies to evaluate future needs and other avenues for support.

The Committee was pleased to learn from Dr. Bruner and others from AEC, and Dr. Frank Hastings (NHI-NIH) of the interest of the AEC and the NIH in

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the development of isotopic power sources for artificial hearts and cardiac pacers.

The March meeting will take place in Berkeley, and the bio-medical program there was reviewed briefly by Drs. Barr, Burr, and Rabson. Dr. Dunham indicated that it might be well for the ACBM to give some attention to the clinical investigations, the occupational health program, the internal emitter and neutron dosimetry programs, and the relation of teaching to research at the Donner Laboratory. He also suggested they keep in mind the question as to whether it was now appropriate for the AEC to provide 90% of Dr. Calvin's research support.

Dr. Dunham briefed the Committee on items of general interest. Among these were 1) the present status of the proposed DBM budget for FY 1968, 2) the possible availability of the Brookhaven Cosmitron injector for Professor Rossi's neutron dosimetry program, 3) the operational problems of the Argonne Janus Reactor, 4) the bio-satellite program, 5) the safety aspects of resettlement of the natives on Bikini, 6) the organization of a committee on environmental quality by the Office of Science and Technology, and of a new HEW committee on pollution, 7) the applicability of FDA regulations to AEC laboratories, 8) the development of a registry of persons with measurable body burdens of plutonium, 9) the status of Operation Henre, 10) recent activities in regard to Workmen's Compensation, 11) the Federal Radiation Council position in regard to hazards in uranium mines, 12) the still unfilled position of director of the UCLA project, 13) activation of the ACBM suggestion of a local advisory group for the AEC-UT Agricultural Research Laboratory and Medical Division of ORINS, ORAU programs which would involve ORNL, and 14) the development by Anderson of a rotor for processing large amounts of material for vaccines.

The ACBM was joined by Commissioners Nabrit and Ramey and by Dr. Spofford English in an executive session at noon on January 13. This was for the purpose of considering possible successors to Dr. Dunham. After some discussion by the Commissioners of the role envisioned for the DBM, Dr. English advised the ACBM of the candidates who have been suggested by various sources. The Advisory Committee offered some comments about the various candidates and agreed to consider this matter in greater detail in its executive session the following day.

The ACBM met in a second executive session on January 14 for further discussion of possible candidates to succeed Dr. Dunham. The recommendation of the ACBM will be transmitted by letter to Dr. English. (Dr. Cohen was not present during a part of this discussion since he had been proposed as a possible candidate.)

Candidates for an E. O. Lawrence Award were reviewed by the Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Cohen. (Dr. Green was not present). The following were recommended in order of preference: John B. Storer, Mortimer Elkind and George S. Hurst. The choice between Storer and Elkind was a difficult one and a strong recommendation will be made that both receive the award.

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The Minutes of the 115th meeting were approved as circulated. The schedule for subsequent meetings is: March 9-11, 1967, Donner Lab, University of California, Berkeley; May 12-13, 1967, University of Rochester; June 9-10, 1967, AEC, Washington, D. C.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Harvey M. Patt  
Scientific Secretary

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