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MINUTES

113th MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE  
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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The 113th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held at AEC Headquarters, Germantown, Maryland, on May 13, and at the Commission's "H" Street office, Washington, D. C., on May 14, 1966. Committee members present were Drs. Fred J. Hodges (Chairman), James H. Sterner (Vice-Chairman), William F. Bale, Mary I. Bunting, Philip P. Cohen, Earl L. Green, Carl V. Moore, Morell B. Russell, Harvey M. Patt (Scientific Secretary), and Miss Rosemary Elmo (Executive Secretary). Also present were Dr. Charles L. Dunham, Director, Division of Biology and Medicine, and various members of the DBM staff.

The agenda consisted of presentations by the staff of DBM and other AEC divisions on May 13 and a briefing on the Plowshare Program, followed by an executive session of the ACBM on May 14.

Dr. Dunham informed the Committee of his recent trip to the British Isles and the meeting on Sr<sup>90</sup> at Chapel Cross. He referred to the finding by Edwards that addition of "alginate" to the diet reduced Sr<sup>90</sup> uptake with little effect on Ca. Dr. Dunham also advised the Committee of his discussions with Mr. Schulte, of the Bureau of the Budget, about the future availability of professional (i.e., Ph.D. and M.D.) personnel for the DBM program, and of AEC's correspondence with Senator Muskie about the stream pollution resulting from the mining of uranium ores on the Colorado Plateau. He introduced Dr. Spofford English, Assistant General Manager for Research and Development, AEC, who discussed the financial picture for FY 1967. The Authorization Bill of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy provides for only a 3.6 per cent increase in the DBM operating budget over FY 1966. Provision for education and training was also decreased relative to that requested in the President's budget. Dr. English also reviewed briefly the report of the Reuss Committee concerning the limitation of foreign research support.

Mr. H. A. Stanwood discussed the objectives and implications of the recent Bureau of the Budget report on the administration of government supported research at universities. Uniform procedures are being proposed for all agencies with support by "an agreement" instead of by a grant or contract.

Mr. Charles Eason, Division of Licensing and Regulation, reported on recent developments regarding the Workmen's Compensation record-keeping system. He noted that only 5 states have not yet responded to the initial query. The interest of various professional groups was reviewed by Dr. William Doran, Division of Operational Safety.

The ACBM learned from Dr. John Wolfe, Environmental Sciences Branch, about the recent Ecology Symposium in Stockholm, in which 16 countries were represented, including the USSR.

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Dr. Russell Poor, Division of Nuclear Education and Training, described "Operation Lift," suggested originally by Dr. Bunting, as a means of furthering the formal education of technicians, etc., employed in AEC laboratories, who have the capacity but who, for cogent reasons, have not had the opportunity. He also related the interest of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in the Puerto Rico Nuclear Center and referred to the possibility of support from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Robert Rabson, Biology Branch, briefed the Committee on the new fruit fly radiation sterilization program in Peru. The radiation source (Cs<sup>137</sup>), but not the operating cost, will be provided by DBM.

Projections of the increased accumulation of radioelements were presented by Dr. H. D. Bruner, who noted that a ten-fold increase in power requirements is expected by the year 2000 with the nuclear contribution increasing from 0 in 1960 to over 600,000 megawatts in 2000. Dr. Bruner also brought the Committee up-to-date on the recent plutonium incident in Spain.

Dr. William Bibb, Medical Branch, summarized the DBM immunology program which was reviewed recently by an ad hoc panel. Dr. Walter Claus described plans for a central research information project, i.e., a "data bank" operated for all government agencies. He also referred to a forthcoming meeting on health physics under the aegis of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Legislation regarding animal procurement and laboratory use was described for the ACBM by Dr. Roger McClellan, Medical Branch, who also reported the present status of the radium studies sponsored by DBM.

Dr. C. W. Edington, Biology Branch, reviewed studies pertaining to the effects of irradiated media. He noted that this subject was considered recently by a panel convened by DBM and that monitoring procedures were being developed for detection of possible genetic effects of irradiated foods in mammalian systems.

Dr. John Totter conveyed the interest of DBM in the stimulation of research on problems of differentiation. The desirability of such a development will be examined in a small conference which is to be organized by DBM in the near future.

The historical background and objectives of the Plowshare Program were presented to the ACBM by Mr. Richard Hamburger, Division of Peaceful Nuclear Explosives.

The following items were considered by the ACBM in executive session:

- 1) UCLA Directorship: It was noted that decisions taken by DBM in regard to Dr. Robert Sinsheimer were entirely appropriate. It appears that the position and program objectives were not clearly defined in the communications between the UCLA administration and Dr. Sinsheimer.

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- 2) DBM Budget: The Committee expressed its serious concern about the FY 1967 financial picture. It is hoped that the overall program can be accommodated without undue erosion of the off-site activities. Apropos of this, the ACBM noted the desirability of a study by the Commission to determine the way in which periodic critical reviews could be made of the on-site program.
- 3) Workmen's Compensation: An evaluation of claims for compensation for radiation exposure through a review of court records would be helpful in the establishment of future policy.
- 4) Administration of research: The formulation of uniform procedures for administration of research support is highly desirable and the Committee was pleased to learn of the developments in this area.
- 5) Research on problems of differentiation: The ACBM recognized the importance of fostering activities in this field and urged implementation of the suggestions made by DBM toward this objective.
- 6) ACBM membership: In view of the relevance of ecological studies to the overall DBM program, it was suggested that an ecologist should be appointed to the ACBM. The Committee was advised that Drs. Moseley and McGee have accepted membership and that Dr. Watson has not yet replied. The continuing members of the ACBM voiced their recognition and appreciation of the valuable contributions made by Drs. Bunting, Hodges, Moore and Sterner during their tenure on the Committee.

The Minutes of the 112th meeting were approved as circulated. The 114th meeting will be held in Washington on September 9-10, 1966. The 115th meeting will take place on November 10-12 at the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harvey M. Patt

Harvey M. Patt  
Scientific Secretary