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 Collection Biology of Medicine  
 Box 2  
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May 15, 1968

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg  
 Chairman  
 U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
 Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine held its 124th meeting on May 10-11, 1968, at AEC Headquarters in Germantown and at the "H" Street office. All members of the Committee were present except Dr. James Wyngaarden, who has resigned from the Committee because of the pressure of other duties connected with his new and demanding position, which interfere with his regular attendance at ACBM meetings.

I am happy to transmit the recommendations of the ACBM on the following matters:

Carbon-13 Program. We recommend that the Carbon-13 program, approved as a staff study on February 2, 1968, be continued. In these further explorations special emphasis should be laid on possible applications to nuclear medicine, diagnosis, and macromolecular studies. A comparative study of the advantage and disadvantage in the applications of <sup>14</sup>C and <sup>13</sup>C would be useful.

Radiation Protection Studies. The ACBM approves of a workshop type of conference on chemical radiation protection to be held at Argonne National Laboratory on July 9 sponsored by the Division of Biology and Medicine. Research since World War II has supplied a great deal of information on the biological effects of ionizing radiation and lead to considerable insight into the basic nature of radiation damage. It is, however, disappointing that there still exist no practical chemical agents for protecting large mammals, including man, against the injurious effects of whole-body radiation or for treatment of such injury after it has occurred. This Argonne workshop should assist in an evaluation of current and proposed basic research in this field and conceivably point out new areas of investigation worthy of support. The ACBM hopes that these meetings will generate new ideas for chemoprotection.

Macromolecular Identification. The ACBM was pleased to learn, and records its approval, of the interest of DBM in developing plans for involvement

in support of centers concerned with programs for isolation, identification,

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and characterization of macromolecules such as nucleic acids and proteins. There is widespread interest in and a recognized need by biomedical scientists in this effort. Other agencies, federal and private, have been interested in and involved with initial efforts. This effort will not only generate basic knowledge related to biosynthesis, function, and sequential structure of importance to understanding radiation injury and repair of nucleic acids, but it also offers great promise for the development of effective chemotherapeutic agents against viral infections if knowledge of terminal sequences and other structural and biosynthetic features of viruses are determined.

National Center of Human Radiobiology. The ACBM reviewed and approved the report of its subcommittee of March 26, 1968, on the proposal for a National Center of Human Radiobiology, and transmitted it to the Director, DBM, for his consideration. The ACBM strongly supports the subcommittee's recommendations and will assist the Director in any appropriate way in their implementation.

The Committee plans to meet next with the General Advisory Committee on July 8, 1968, at Argonne National Laboratory. The meeting after that will be held on September 13-14, 1968, in Washington, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

Earl L. Green, Chairman  
Advisory Committee for Biology  
and Medicine

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