

326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

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Collection Division of Biology & Medicine ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE
BROOKHAVEN LABORATORIES, UPTON, N. Y.
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MARCH 13, 1948

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine held its 7th meeting at Brookhaven National Laboratories, March 13, 1948. All members were present except Dr. Gregg and Dr. Stakman.

After inspection of the facilities, the fellowship program was discussed in considerable detail, and the organization proposed by the National Research Council for implementation of the program was presented by Dr. Bronk. Dr. Bowers reported progress with the four basic training centers ancillary to the program. Dr. Failla presented a program for training in applied biophysics, "Health Physics." A considerable number of applicants have already contacted the National Research Council and others are anticipated soon.

Bostock & Reppin

After a thorough consideration of the medical aspect of hazard pay the Committee recommended that exposure to permissible dosage of radiation and exposure to toxic material under adequate safeguards be regarded as not hazardous to health.

Emphasis was placed on the desirability of prompt release of information with regard to beryllosis. The problem of commercial synthesis of compounds containing radioactive isotopes having biologic and medical uses was discussed. The Committee recommended that they approve in principle the encouragement of commercial firms to undertake synthesis of radioactive compounds, and suggested exploring the legal aspects of contractual aid. It was recommended that up to \$15,000 be made available to explore the possibilities of "Isotope farming."

There was then an extensive discussion of the program in biology at Brookhaven. The Committee noted with some apprehension that a relatively large group of personnel was being developed in biology at Brookhaven without adequate evidence of an integrated program of the degree of guidance that is desirable in an installation of this degree of importance. It was recommended that personnel in the Division of Biology be frozen at the present level, and that emphasis be placed on the provision of facilities for guest investigators rather than as at present exclusive emphasis on the building up of a local group of investigators. The Director was requested to transmit this viewpoint to Dr. Morse and to Dr. Nims, and to explore with them the best means of making facilities available for guest investigators. It was felt that the additional laboratory and greenhouse facilities being planned should be pushed forward. It was further felt that the proposed conversion of three of the old hospital buildings to provide a 40-bed hospital for all medical care and medical research should be carried on promptly.

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Assistant General Manager

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The problem of civilian defense was discussed in the light of the interest shown by many doctors and civic officials in this problem. The broad plans for the newly created Office of Civilian Defense were discussed and the Committee has requested me to transmit its interest and willingness to assist in a Civilian Defense Program.

The Committee recommended that the Program in Biophysics at various universities be studied with a view to providing them increased support and strengthening their facilities where it would be to the advantage of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Committee heartily approved of the projected research program of the Department of Agriculture for investigation of the Effect of Alpha Emitters on the Yield of Plants.

The request for a betatron at University of Illinois was studied and it is recommended that the present policy providing special equipment at Regional Laboratories be continued and that that policy be extended only to universities having intimate contractual relations with Atomic Energy Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest W. Goodpasture

Ernest W. Goodpasture, M. D.
Vice Chairman, Committee for
Biology and Medicine