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December 2, 1966

Reginald H. Fitts, M.D.
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The University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

REPOSITORY LIPL/HR
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Dear Reg:

I have been following with considerable interest the discussions that have gone on involving you and some of your people with representatives of the Los Alamos Medical Center and Wright Langham. The idea of having a facility here for clinical research has always been in the back of my mind, but the necessary dollars never seemed to be available and there were a variety of practical difficulties great enough so that the thing never showed signs of getting off the ground.

As I understand it now, discussions between the Medical School and the Los Alamos Medical Center will continue with the possible objective of having space available for a Clinical Research Unit which subsequently would attract a considerable input of federal funds. For the time being, at least, the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory would not be involved in any way.

On the other hand, it seems to me that in the future this Laboratory could not avoid a certain amount of involvement. If it were not for facilities and equipment already existing in Los Alamos as well as those planned for the future, such as the Mason Factory, Los Alamos with its relative isolation would not be the location of choice. I don't think that we or you would consider or contemplate the development of a Clinical Research Unit in Los Alamos where there would be absolutely no collaboration between the two groups, or the use of some of our existing facilities. For this reason I feel it would be highly advisable to request President Popejoy at least to

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write to Mr. Bradbury, our Laboratory Director, and advise him officially that plans of this sort are being contemplated. It is very obvious that it would be quite impossible at this stage of the game to be specific or go into detail in any way. I am sure, however, that Mr. Bradbury does not wish to find himself confronted with a fait accompli and committed to support something of which he had not been officially aware.

Please do not get the impression that I am attempting to put obstacles in your way. On the contrary, I am trying to clear the path and get it free of obstacles. As I said above, this Laboratory and the University of California are not involved at the present time, but to me it seems inevitable that there will be some degree of involvement in the future.

Very sincerely yours,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M.D.
Health Division Leader

FLS/mjt

cc: Wright Langham ←

bcc: N. E. Bradbury

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