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 LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY
 (CONTRACT W-7405-ENG-36)
 P. O. Box 1663
 LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO 87544

IN REPLY
 REFER TO:

DIR

January 25, 1967

Dr. Tom L. Popejoy
 President
 The University of New Mexico
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Dear President Popejoy:

I am very pleased to learn formally from your letter of January 5, 1967, of the interest of the University of New Mexico in sponsoring a clinical research unit at Los Alamos and the possible ultimate extension of such an activity into an Institute for Radiobiological Medicine having close professional connections with our hoped-for Meson Facility. It is my strong personal opinion that such an Institute (as well as its smaller precursor research unit) could enjoy most profitable scientific connections with the work of the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory and that the stimulus to and interaction with our own people would be equally exciting. I can assure you that the Laboratory will be happy to continue the informal planning collaboration presently going on and to work with the University and Medical School staff in exploring and solving the administrative machinery which might be involved. Needless to say, the AEC must also be involved, because the facilities which the Laboratory uses are, of course, its property and their agreement to such collaborative activities is naturally essential.

We are hopeful, but not entirely optimistic, that the Meson Facility will receive authorization and funding during the current session of Congress. Even if this is not the case, we are relatively certain that the work will be pursued and that we shall eventually see such a facility in operation at Los Alamos. Nevertheless, in the best of situations it will be several years before the accelerator will be in operation. Perhaps 1971 is as good a guess as any. Therefore, perhaps some of the administrative problems connected with the use of the Meson Facility by the proposed Institute for Radiobiological Medicine may be passed over for the moment. I have in mind, for example, questions

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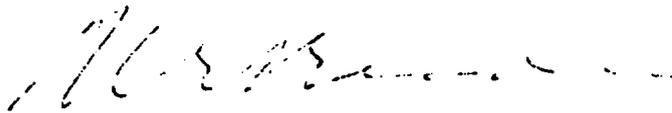
January 25, 1967

such as who seeks the funding for the construction of the treatment facilities at the target end of the accelerator, the apportionment of beam time for clinical use, and other somewhat tedious fiscal matters which inevitably come up.

More immediately, if your plans to establish a small research group at the Los Alamos Medical Center come to fruition, we will need to arrive at a rather detailed mutual understanding of the methods by which members of your staff would have access to the facilities of our biomedical research group - our so-called Health Research Laboratory (HRL). Some of the problems are administrative and legal in nature and have to do with such matters as insurance, liability, patent rights, and medical practice responsibility. There is also the question of security clearance for members of your staff. Although none of the work of HRL is classified, it has been a general policy of the AEC and LASL to require that some background investigation be made of personnel who have continued access to the Laboratory working areas, so this question must be explored. Finally there is the practical question of financing since our own funds for the biomedical research are severely limited and any new costs due to the joint activity would need to have a separate source of revenue. In all of these matters the concurrence of the AEC would be required.

I mention these questions with no intention of implying that they may constitute obstacles of any sort, but only with the object of noting that we and the AEC are subject to a variety of governmental rules and that "collaborative activity" is easy to say but requires some attention to its actual format. I am confident that a mutually profitable and exciting program can be worked out from the scientific and medical point of view; I am equally confident that we can work out the appropriate administrative arrangements.

Very truly yours,



N. E. Bradbury
Director

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