

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

LAWRENCE RADIATION LABORATORY
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

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Books U O I - 11-A-1
132 files
107

December 10, 1951
REPOSITORY Office of Human Radiation
COLLECTION Experiments (OHRE)
Plutonium Injection
BOX No. 2
FOLDER Extra Copies From
Rochester Files

Dr. J. D. Goldstein
Division of Biology and Medicine
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Goldstein,

Here are copies of the status report I prepared for Dr. Born on the Pu-injected people and a summary of what I was able to accomplish on a recent trip to Rochester. Dr. Stannard's NCRP committee 34 on which I sit was meeting in Rochester, and I stayed over for a day to dig around.

The Rochester people were most helpful. Dr. Christine Waterhouse, who is in charge of the metabolic ward at Strong Hospital (and was there as a resident during 1945-46 when the people were injected), thinks she can obtain excretion and possibly blood samples from the three surviving persons. She sees two of them regularly and is well acquainted with the physician who is seeing the third. She feels there is some urgency because all are in their 70's and getting feeble. Rochester winters are especially hard on the very old. She is convinced this can be accomplished without creating any problems.

Before any arrangements can be made I will have to make some sort of proposal for Dr. Born's approval (or disapproval as the case may be), and eventually we would want the permission of your office to proceed. Such a proposal should be forthcoming in the next few days. It is my belief that any information we can obtain about or from these people is of value beyond price. An opportunity such as this may not arise again for years, if ever.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Durbin
Patricia W. Durbin

Tel. with Dr. Durbin 12/17/51. She agreed that the metabolic should be done first & directly. Will discuss same with Dr. Born & then submit a report if agreeable to parent organization.

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Report on progress in tracing
Plutonium-injected people, Rochester Series.

Things accomplished:

I. All 11 persons who were injected in Rochester have been identified by name and hospital unit number. These are cases HP-1 through HP-11.

A. Three are still alive and living in the Rochester area. Two are still patients of Dr. Christine Waterhouse, the third is a patient of a local physician well acquainted with Dr. Waterhouse. These records have been seen and are in the active file.

B. Five patients have died and their records have been placed in safe storage for ready access.

C. Three patients have died and their records are being sought. We will be notified, if and when they are located.

II. Completion of records on dead patients.

A. Autopsy numbers were in file for only three patients. Unfortunately all tissue blocks before 1948 were lost in an accidental heat excursion which melted all the paraffin blocks.

B. Death certificates have been located for two persons who did not die at Rochester and for whom death dates were not known.

C. Last known whereabouts of one patient who was lost to follow-up has been determined.

D. Records of all ten patients cared for in metabolic ward-- ward day books and dietary information have been located and placed in safe storage.

Things yet to do to complete Rochester archives:

I. Order death certificates for those persons who are known to be dead.

II. Trace missing patient, HP-10. This should not prove too difficult. He was in failing health and was discharged to the County Infirmary to await transfer to a veteran's home.

III. Attempt to fill in health history of those three patients, dead or suspected dead who did not return to Rochester.

IV. The last patient in the series, HP-12, has been identified by name. He was injected and cared for at Oak Ridge, and last seen about 2 years afterwards, that would be 1947 or 1948. His last whereabouts was known, but he will be hard to trace. He had one cataract at the time of injection and subsequently developed another in the other eye. He also suffered from recurrent problems associated with venereal disease, and must have sought medical help. Death certificates and perhaps Social Security records might be used for leads.

Search of the records in Chicago to identify the individuals hasn't been attempted yet.

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Patricia W. Durbin

December 9, 1971

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