

November 8, 1973

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TO: R. E. Rowland

FROM: A. F. Stehney

SUBJECT: CHR participation in follow-up of transuranic injection cases from 1945-1947.

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My direct knowledge of these cases began with a visit of Dr. Patricia W. Durbin to ANL on December 13, 1972. As a follow-up to her study of reports on these 19 cases, summarized in Radiobiology of Plutonium (1972), she had identified most of the cases by study of hospital records. In Chicago, she had just finished identifying two of the three Chicago cases with the help of Dr. George LeRoy. Since previous conversation with you had indicated that CHR might support further follow-up, she came to ANL and discussed possible work with me in Dr. R. E. Rowland's absence.

A summary of basic data on the 19 cases is given in Table 1. The table includes information originally provided by Dr. Durbin plus information obtained by CHR in subsequent follow-up to November 8, 1973.

My memo of 12/18/72 to RER summarized my discussion of 12/13/72 with Dr. Durbin, and a copy is attached for convenient reference. Some notes from the memo follow:

- 1) Dr. Durbin left copies of her case records on 19 persons.
- 2) The immediate need was for financial support of a metabolic study (blood and excreta) of 3 aged persons in Rochester.
- 3) Christine Waterhouse, M.D. of Strong Memorial Hospital would make arrangements and provide medical supervision for a stay in the metabolic ward.
- 4) Dr. Durbin stated that Dr. Waterhouse did not want these patients upset by mention of injection with plutonium. I replied that this should be handled by the Rochester human use committee, if needed; our part would be to analyze excreta and we would hope to have a body willed to CHR for detailed study.
- 5) Dr. Durbin had had previous discussions with Dr. Wright Langham (Los Alamos), Louis Hempelmann, M.D. (Rochester), and Joseph Goldstein, M.D. (AEC - DBER), and she had an obligation to ensure participation of LASL in the analyses.

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PROVENANCE

REPOSITORY: OFFICE OF HUMAN RADIATION  
EXPERIMENTS (OHRE)

COLLECTION: PLUTONIUM INJECTION INVESTIGATION  
FILES (OHRE 1)

BOX: 3

FOLDER: PLUTONIUM - CHR

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On December 20, 1972, Dr. Durbin gave me details by phone on the possible Rochester metabolic study. My memo of 1/4/73 to RER summarized the conversation (copy attached). Notable was the information that two of the patients were regularly seen by Dr. Waterhouse in her clinic, the other lives some distance from Strong Memorial.

A chronological summary of CHR work on the injection cases is given below.

- 12/21/72 Memo R. E. Rowland to H. A. Schultz (CHR). Transmits case records to CHR Record Room and states intention to study live persons and to locate dead persons for autopsy studies. Mention of plutonium is specifically prohibited outside of CHR.
- 1/3/73 Meeting of A. M. Brues, M.D., P. M. Failla, M. S. Littman, M.D., J. H. Marshall, B. C. Patten, R. E. Rowland, J. Rundo, and A. F. Stehney to discuss plutonium cases. Responsibility assigned M. S. Littman to work with Dr. Waterhouse. A. F. Stehney to arrange financial details. A. M. Brues to select 4 cases of high priority for exhumation (permissions to be sought by J. Lieben, M.D., consultant).
- 1/4/73 Letter, R. E. Rowland to Dr. Christine Waterhouse. Confirms and expands on details of metabolic study for "two or three patients for a period of two weeks or more in the metabolic ward of Strong Memorial Hospital".
- 1/26/73 Visit of R. B. Holtzman to Strong Memorial Hospital to arrange details of collection and shipment of metabolic samples (cf. RBH memo of 2/1/73).
- 2/1/73 Visit of M. S. Littman with Dr. Waterhouse at Strong Memorial Hospital to discuss details of examination of patients and request for willed body. (Cf. MSL memo of 2/5/73 on visit and memo of 2/5/73 on patient HP-3 who entered SMH on 1/28/73).
- 2/8/73 Visit of J. Rundo to SMH for attempt at in-vivo measurement of radioactivity on patient HP-3, using counter available at SMH.
- ~ 2/12/73 Visit of S. F. Hoegerman to accept blood samples for chromosome studies.
- 3/7/73 Letter from A. M. Brues to A. O. Dykes, M.D. (Italy, Texas) about contacting patient Cal-III for study at Rochester.

4/24/73 Letter from A. F. Stehney to M. M. Shanahan (MIT) transmitting copies of CHR information on 10 dead patients with instructions to locate relatives for permission to exhume.

CHR contacts with these cases have been as follows (to 11/8/73):

- 1) Case HP-3 was in Strong Memorial Hospital from 1/28/73 to 2/18/73 for metabolic studies.
- 2) Case HP-6 was in SMH from 6/21/73 to 7/1/73 for metabolic studies and had blood drawn for chromosome studies on 2/14/73 at SMH.
- 3) Case Cal-III was at CHR on 6/11/73 for complete physical and radioactivity measurements. He was at SMH 6/13/73 to 6/26/73 for metabolic studies.
- 4) Case HP-4 was exhumed on 9/24/73 in Geneseo, New York and was transferred to CHR for examination.