

~~SECRET~~ Document number 2 of 3

719676

October 26, 1945

Dr. S. H. Bassett
University of Rochester
School of Medicine
F. O. Box 287, Crittenden Station
Rochester 7, New York

Dear Dr. Bassett:

This letter is to clarify our telephone conversation of yesterday in which I was having considerable trouble hearing.

In general, the work seems to be satisfactory, and your cooperation is excellent and greatly appreciated. I wish we were doing as well here. I did not get the cooperation that Colonel Warren hoped for in regard to rebuilding my laboratory, and consequently I am still held up by construction. I hope, however, that everything will be taken care of in three or four days.

The principal worry still seems to be the collection of feces samples representing a definite time interval. Please let me know what your ideas are regarding this problem. It seems to me that carmine marking does not help any.

Is the way in which the samples are being collected essentially as follows? All stools passed during the first four days after injection are collected and bottled separately. The bottles are labeled with the date and time of passage of the stool. After the first four days the stools are pooled in approximately four day intervals, the time and date of passage of each stool being recorded on the label.

The confusing issue seems to be whether you consider the beginning of a particular collection period to be a certain set time of day; i.e. 8:00 A.M., or do you consider it to be the time of passage of the last stool incorporated into the preceding sample?

The second point I mentioned to you was the necessity of marking the maniscus on each jar with a piece of adhesive tape. Place the bottle on a level table and place the tape such that its top edge marks the maniscus of the sample. This will enable us to judge whether or not leakage has occurred during shipment. We will also be able to judge volume at this laboratory, so you will not have to do it there.

The primary reason we prefer to measure volume here is that urine residues carrying the product may deposit on the walls of your graduate. Urine sediments are known to have a high product carrying power.

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Classification Cancelled

Or Changed To

By Authority Of Div. of Classification

By JKHartsock/eb Date 5/10/74

PROVENANCE

REPOSITORY: OFFICE OF HUMAN RADIATION
EXPERIMENTS (OHRE)

COLLECTION: PLUTONIUM INJECTION INVESTIGATION
FILES (OHRE 1)

BOX: 4

FOLDER: IRRELEVANT MATERIAL

Up to and including the shipment of eleven units on October 22, only one serious casualty has occurred during shipment. Bottle B, unit no. 27899, Wm. Purcell, sample from 10-19-45 to 10-20-45, was empty, the contents having completely leaked out. This bottle was one with the spring-type fastener on the top.

In the last shipment three boxes were open on arrival. It seems that the screws had split the edges of the plywood. This resulted in an insecure fastening of the lids.

Air express seems to be very fast. Samples billed Oct. 22 arrived here in the late afternoon of October 24. If the expense is not too great it would seem to be the better way to ship.

In regard to your concentrating samples, I am not worried as much about contamination as I am about whether or not you avoid loss of product by adsorption on the walls of the vessel in which you do the concentrating. If you carry out the concentration in the vessel used for shipping the sample such loss does not occur, of course.

In order that we may evaluate the results as we analyze the samples we would like to know the urea clearance values for each patient, and the time and date of the injections. Please send us this information if you have not done so.

Another point about which I was inquiring was that each fecal sample from Purcell had a notation which I did not understand. As an example the third collection period carried the notation "diet taken 10-14-45 through 10-17-45." Does this have anything to do with our experiment?

I shall send you the results at intervals. So far we are concerned with construction, blanks and controls.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Please let me know if I can be of any additional help to you, and to the cooperative effort.

Sincerely,

Wright Langham

P.S. Another shipment of samples just arrived in which there was additional evidence of leakage. Again the leakage was from bottles having the spring-type fastener. In this shipment there was one sample from Lo Vecchio covering the 24-hour period from 10-19-45. Could one have been lost in shipment? Perhaps you should keep a record of the number of units in each shipment so we can be sure all samples are delivered.

Please tell Dr. Fink "dummy injection" solution number one when received.

1146719

W.L.