

# Oak Ridge Associated Universities

Incorporated

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P.O. Box 117 - Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Telephone 615 483-8411

September 20, 1974

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Dear

Several months ago it was first announced in the newspapers that the ORAU Medical Division Hospital would soon be closing. Unfortunately these reports were ambiguous and allowed some people to mistakenly believe the Medical Division's clinical program would be transferred to the East Tennessee Cancer Research Center in connection with the U. T. Memorial Hospital in Knoxville, and that the program would continue unchanged except for relocation. I believe the need for closing was accurately reported and the USAEC has ruled out the possibility of building a new hospital here at Oak Ridge.

Therefore, after October 18, 1974 we will admit no patients to the hospital except for specific research tests and on November 15, 1974 the hospital will be closed permanently. All outpatient and inpatient visits scheduled for after December 15 will be cancelled. Although the eventual reorganization of the ORAU medical program has not been finalized, we plan to maintain an outpatient nuclear medicine research program to continue testing new ways of detecting cancer with radioactive isotopes. However, the outpatient services will be limited to experimental diagnostic procedures and will not include treatment.

We recognize that for some this news will be very distressing and for others the closing will inflict a real hardship, especially on those who have become dependent upon us for care of their very serious illnesses. We genuinely regret the necessity of this decision and further regret the misleading aspects of the reports and rumors which have circulated. The work and association with the patients at ORAU has been a meaningful and fulfilling experience for each staff member. We are very much aware of and appreciative of the confidence that you have shown in us and your willingness to assist us in carrying out our research mission.

This letter should be regarded as a referral back to the physician who originally referred you to ORAU (or to any personal physician of your choice). Please be assured that we want to cooperate with you and your doctor in any way we can within the constraints placed upon us by our contract with the USAEC and the law. We will be happy to correspond with your doctor and to make copies of your chart for him at your request.

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Some patients will literally not know which way to turn. If you are one, please let me suggest that you 1) consult your personal (family) doctor, discuss with him how you view this event and what you feel it implies for you personally or 2) call us to see if we can help direct you to some suitable alternative. We want to help you find suitable sources of medical care and if necessary, to attempt to help you arrange financial assistance. If you feel the need to discuss these matters, Ms. Bingham, our head nurse, is prepared to receive your calls and will make arrangements for you to come in to talk either with her or with another staff member who will advise you regarding these adjustments. You may reach Ms. Bingham by calling collect during working hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.), area code ' number '

Once again, on behalf of the entire staff at the ORAU Medical Division we appreciate having worked with you. With your help we have made significant progress against our common enemy, cancer, and we wish you the very best.

Sincerely,



C. Lowell Edwards, M.D.  
Chief of Clinical Services  
Medical Division