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FACTSHEET HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION-2 SFS2,001

Project Name: Testicular Irradiation of Inmates at Oregon and Washington State Prisons
Date Started: 1963
Date Terminated: 1975

Institute: 1) Pacific Northwest Research Foundation, Seattle, WA
2) Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA

Source(s) of Funds: 1) AEC/ERDA, total appr. \$ 1.12 million
2) AEC/ERDA, total appr. \$ 0.5 million

Identification: 1) AT (45-1) 1780 2)
Project Duration: 8 years (irradiation program; + appr. 5 years for data coll.)
Principal Investigator(s): 1) Dr. Carl C. Heller for the Oregon Project
2) Dr. C. Alvin Paulsen for the Washington Project
Responsible Government Official(s): 1963-1967 Charles L. Benham, M.D.
1967-1972 John R. Teller, Ph.D.
1972-1975 James L. Livermore, Ph.D.

Objective(s) of Project: To obtain data on the effects of radiation on human fertility (data drawn from animal experiments not extrapolatable to man)

Short Description: In Oregon, 74 prisoner volunteers (ranging in age from 15 to 52) were given x-ray exposures to the testes in doses ranging from 80 to 600 R. Most prisoners received a single exposure, six received two exposures, one received three exposures, and one received 11 weekly exposures. Each inmate agreed to have a vasectomy performed at the end of the experiment; consent of the prisoner's wife was obtained for this procedure. Serial biopsies and sperm counts were taken to evaluate the radiation effect on fertility.
~~Washington, [later]~~

Follow-up data: In 1976, a program was developed for follow-up medical examinations of the subjects. At the request of the U.S. Attorney in Portland, OR, this mission was cancelled because of the several suits instituted by prison inmates.

References:

C. G. Heller: Effects of Ionizing Radiation on the Testicular Function of Man; 9-year progress report, May 1972

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Attachment(s):
Reference 1 (first 10 pp.)