



UNITED STATES TRANSURANIUM REGISTRY

705686

Date: July 11, 1977

To: U. S. Transuranium Registry Distribution

From: Bryce D. Breitenstein, Jr., M.D., Director *Bryce D. Breitenstein*

Subject: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE U. S. TRANSURANIUM REGISTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MEETING JUNE 15-16, 1977

The following recommendations of the U. S. Transuranium Registry Advisory Committee, which are endorsed by the Registry, are forwarded for your information and guidance.

1. The Committee noted that the basic charter of the Transuranium Registry included the responsibility for epidemiological studies and that Los Alamos also has a charter to conduct epidemiological studies in relation to the transuranic workers. Accordingly, it was recommended that both organizations define the scope of their programs, specify the kinds of collected information required and specifically note what collaboration between the two programs should and will develop. The Committee recommended that Drs. Voelz and Breitenstein pursue the resolution of these matters and report to the Committee their findings so this matter may be considered in more detail.
2. The Committee recommended that the use of a single laboratory to analyze the Transuranium Registry autopsy samples be avoided and that a minimum of two laboratories be used. Two main considerations were the technical aspects involving laboratory intercalibrations and the avoidance of sociopolitical opponents criticizing single laboratory bias. It was emphasized that assuring low-level detection ability of transuranic elements at the designated laboratories was essential. Battelle Northwest and LASL were considered the best choices at this time.
3. The Committee recommended that histopathological slides be systematically collected for all future cases, and that a concerted effort be made to obtain histopathological slides on past autopsy cases. These slides are to be reviewed by at least two independent pathologists when received by the Registry and kept on file.
4. It was recommended that all USTR forms be reviewed, revised if needed, and submitted to ERDA for approval. In particular, the Committee noted that the current "Authorization for Release of Medical and Radiation Exposure Information" was quite wide in scope and may need to be more specific. Included in these concerns of the Committee were the effects of the Privacy Act on the solicitation of such information, as well as the need for a critical legal review of the "Authority for Autopsy" form.

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5. It was recommended that the Registry consider maintaining duplicate records at widely separated storage facilities to reduce the risk of loss of data.
6. The matter of following up on separated transuranic employees was noted to relate back to the specific identification of such employees, and the Committee made no recommendations on this. It did recommend, however, that Drs. Voelz and Breitenstein consider this matter and present their findings and recommendations to the Committee for their subsequent advice.
7. The Committee made very strong recommendations regarding the necessity to obtain samples of bone and bone marrow, in particular the femur. Their recommendation was that femur samples involving full-cross sections (napkin ring) be sought vigorously. The current studies regarding bone marrow separation were encouraged and a specific recommendation was made for the Registry to take a close look at the ethylene-diamine extraction method of separation of bone and bone marrow, which has been successful in radium cases.
8. The Committee recognized the number of complications involved in the interpretation and extrapolation of data from the laboratory analyses of autopsy samples to that of the whole body and the subsequent correlation of the data with the health physics in vivo determinations. To assist the Committee in making recommendations on this subject, it appointed Drs. Poston (Chairman) and Mays to investigate and report their findings. Mr. Newton of the LSTR staff will work closely with them.
9. The matter regarding the establishment of a transuranic accident and analysis center was noted to be contained in the original charter of the Transuranium Registry and also inherently contained in the epidemiological study being conducted by Dr. Voelz. In addition, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, through Dr. Lushbaugh's staff, is compiling some transuranic accident data. This matter, the Committee noted, needs clarification for better assignment of responsibility. Discussions between Drs. Lushbaugh, Voelz and Breitenstein are needed, with their recommendations to the Committee.
10. The Committee recommended that the Registry continue to seek analyses of autopsy samples for both the transuranic elements and uranium where both depositions may have occurred. It recommended that the Registry not undertake the task of including in their activities a separate registry for uranium (metal) workers at this time. This is not because such an activity would be improper or foreign to the interests of the Registry, but rather that funds are already inadequate for some more vital efforts with the transuranium elements.

11. The Committee recommended that the Energy Research and Development Administration establish contact and attempt to obtain the highly desirable support (financial and administrative) of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to enhance licensee participation in the USTR. The Committee was hesitant to make any recommendations regarding similar support from Nuclear Energy Liability Property Insurance Association without more specific information regarding their objectives and degree of participation. It was recommended that the Registry make further contact to define these areas and report this to the Committee.
12. The Committee recommended support of special biological studies which will make the best use of autopsy tissue and encouraged collaboration between the USTR and other ERDA sponsored laboratories such as Battelle, Argonne, Oak Ridge and the University of Utah.
13. It was recommended that annual meetings of the USTR Advisory Committee be held, preferably early in the calendar year, so that programmatic and budgetary concerns may be considered in a timely fashion.

cc: USTR Advisory Committee Members
W. H. Weyzen, M.D. - ERDA Headquarters