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January 30, 1956

Robert S. Stone, M. D.
Department of Radiology

Dear Doctor Stone:

As you know, Dr. Low-Beer, Dr. Bell, Dr. Crane, Mr. Mott and I were collaborating in some work on the use of K-42 in the localization and identification of tumors, including those involved in a nervous system. As far as our own area of interest in neurological surgery is concerned, I felt we were getting valuable information from this. I wonder if anyone in your department is continuing this. As you are, of course, aware, the Department of Radiology's participation is the sine qua non of the investigation.

Very truly yours,

Edwin B. Boldrey, M. D.

EBB:jo

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Responsible Investigators: B. V. A. Low-Beer, M. D.*, H. Glenn Bull, M. D.
Edwin Boldrey, M. D., Jackson Crane, M. D., and Mr. Chester J. Mott

University Departments: Radiology, Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Pathology

Financial Support 1954-55: U. C. $ 1,767.00; A.C.S. $ 3,922.00

Title of Project: The Use of K^{42} as an Indicator for the Localization of Deep-Seated Tumors.

The aim of this project is to find better means of localizing deep-seated tumors and to determine metabolic activity in such deep-seated tumor tissue.

Many radioactive isotopes have been used during the past several years for this purpose; the results, however, have left something to be desired. K^{42} is known to be an intracellular metabolite, and it is reasonable to presume that cells functioning at different rates may metabolize the isotope at correspondingly different rates. Previous experimental evidence shows that K^{42} does concentrate selectively in tumor tissue arising from the breast and brain. K^{42} is a gamma ray emitter and can easily be detected by counting equipment placed external to the body.

To date, the distribution of radioactive potassium in normal rat tissue, including the brain, liver, muscle, bone, fat, and lungs, has been determined in 20 animals. In addition, 33 patients have been studied in an attempt to localize tumor tissue by the surface measurement method, using a scintillation counter and collimator. To date, the results are inconclusive. Further data are being collected.

Publications To Date: None

* Deceased September 25, 1955

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