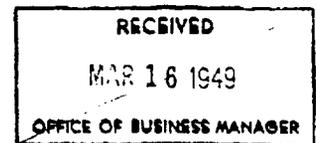


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BERKELEY: DIVISION OF MEDICAL PHYSICS

March 14, 1949



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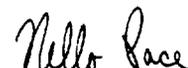
Mr. James M. Miller  
 Assistant Business Manager  
 Administration Bldg.  
 Campus

Dear Mr. Miller:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of this date, I should like to comment on the objections raised by the University Attorney regarding the proposed extension of Contract N7onr 295/IV. Section A of the new proposal merely lists the general nature of the research under this contract, which has been under investigation for the past two years. There is nothing new in this section as far as the general program is concerned, and experiments along these lines have become almost routine. I might point out that the change in the title of the contract was effected merely to emphasize the biochemical aspects of the work in view of the transfer of the project from the Human Ecology Branch to the Biochemistry Branch of the O.N.R. which has recently occurred.

The addition of section Q regarding the disavowal of any liability by the government, in my opinion, is not serious, because in any event the possibility of serious mishap is remote in these experiments. The amount of radioactive material used is small and well below any harmful exposure dose, so-called "tracer" amounts being used. Although the possibility of mishap is always present, it is no greater than that associated with much research both at this University and elsewhere in the country. Furthermore the specific responsibility for the physical welfare of the individuals participating in these experiments is assumed by Dr. George F. Warner, Clinical Instructor in Medicine, and a duly licensed physician in the State of California. It is my impression that the University provides routine coverage for possible exigencies arising out of work of this nature, and that the responsibility is more logically borne by the University under the circumstances. Finally, I should like to add that all reasonable precautions are taken to insure the welfare of the participating individuals, and the calculated risk that is always present in human experimentation is reduced to the minimum extent compatible with a reasonable attack on the problem.

Sincerely yours,

  
 Nello Pace

NP:bcp

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