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BANCROFT/UA/ARC ID NO.	BANC MSS 79/112c	COPY
CARTON NO.	BOX 13	
FOLDER NAME	LETTERS WRITTEN BY JONES JULY - DEC 1970	P. 1/1
NOTES	C-14 LABELED GLYCEROL EXPERIMENTS AND POSSIBLE LAWSUITS	7/16/71
FOUND BY/DATE FOUND	KAREN HOLMES	10/27/94

BERKELEY: DONNER LABORATORY AND DONNER PAVILION

July 16, 1971

722107

Professor Charles W. Koch  
27 Lewis  
CAMPUS

Dear Charles:

I appreciate your analysis of ~~the~~ Margen's proposed use of C<sup>14</sup> labelled glycerol. I hope that you can reconsider our position since it isn't possible to eliminate radiation exposure or the risk of disease having a partial linkage to the radiation exposure. Our guideline for decision has always been to keep the dosage as low as possible and, in this case, the estimated exposure is in the range of 3 millirad, which is about 1/30 of the early exposure to natural radiation.

Our colleagues have concurred on the dosimetry and believe that the chance of a person developing leukemia over his lifetime is about 1 in 100 risk. In this case, radiation exposure probably accounts for as much as one half of the causative events; but the sum of radiation exposure, natural and from other sources, must be weighed in consideration of such an event and, if this hypothetical person develops leukemia at age fifty, then the radiation exposure through this testing procedure will have contributed 1/3,000 of the risk assigned to radiation.

While we are a long way from knowing how to handle such cases of possible suits, it has always seemed to me a point of prudence to have insurance coverage for one of these improbable occurrences. Unfortunately, and as your letter infers, the courts have not been showing much wisdom of grading estimate of cause and almost concluding that any cause is all cause -- but that is the problem of the courts. So I again ask some reconsideration on your part and perhaps that might be in terms of calling attention to the University liability in these matters so that insurance or the self-insurance provisions of the University will provide a very small likelihood that claims will be advanced on this type of radiation exposure as a contributing factor to leukemia or cancer.

Sincerely,

*Hardin B. Jones*  
Hardin B. Jones

*Dr. Alex. Hinton advised me that the C<sup>14</sup> label, probably is partially in longer residence than Dr. Margen's.*

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