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BIOLOGICAL & MEDICAL RESEARCH *FF*

July 18th, 1951

REPOSITORY Argonne/CHR
 COLLECTION Austin Bruce Subcenter
 BOX No. 267
 FOLDER Sources of material, of patients,
and information

Dr. Albert Field
 72 Park Avenue
 Manhasset, L. I., N. Y.

Dear Dr. Field:

I am sorry that I did not have an opportunity of spending more time with you when my colleagues and I visited your father several weeks ago. There are several things of interest I was anxious to talk over with you as I know you must have wondered what matters we were discussing with Dr. Field.

At the present time the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission is vitally interested in the effects of the long-continued presence of radioactive materials in the body and their rates of excretion. This has great practical importance in the field of national defense as well as theoretical interest in the relationship between radioactivity and bone damage and tumor induction. The Argonne National Laboratory of the Atomic Energy Commission is at present engaged in a comprehensive study of these problems. Dr. William Looney, Leonidas Marinelli and myself, who visited your father, are members of the Division of Biological and Medical Research and we are most intimately concerned in the carrying out of this program.

As you know, the administration of radium chloride as a therapeutic agent intravenously and orally during the period 1915 to 1930 was carried out by many prominent physicians both here and abroad. Your father, of course, had been in the forefront of those studying the effects of the administration of radium. The work done by those investigators has gained added importance as the years have passed. As you may know and as your father indicated to us in our last conversation, a very small amount of radium remains in the body as long as twenty or more years after its administration. The accurate estimation of the amount remaining at this time, when correlated with data available from the physicians who administered the drug, yields information which is invaluable. Similar studies on experimental animals are not comparably valuable; firstly, because a different species than man is involved; secondly, because other animals handle substances injected into the body in a slightly different manner than man; thirdly, because a period of twenty years has elapsed and answers of national and great scientific importance can be gained at once.

At the Argonne National Laboratory members of the Division of Biological and Medical Research have devised radiation instruments which, in a simple manner and without inconvenience to the patient, determine the amount of radium present in the body. We conferred with your father concerning the

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possibility of obtaining his cooperation in this work by making available to us the names of patients who had received radium intravenously or orally as a therapeutic measure in the past. We can assure you that the proper ethical doctor-doctor and doctor-patient relationship would be maintained in these studies. Your father seemed somewhat fatigued at the time (as you mentioned, he had not been feeling well for the previous several weeks) and we did not wish to tire him by pressing the matter further.

I bring these matters to your attention as I want to emphasize the great value which resides in your father's clinical records. Data exist in his notes which could not be obtained elsewhere and which must be preserved and, it is hoped, made available to groups such as ours.

In the past year Dr. Field treated three patients with radium intravenously. These comprise the most important of the group as very little is known concerning the excretion of radium during the first year after administration. We are especially anxious to study these individuals in the near future.

Please pardon my writing at such length, but I do so want to emphasize again the importance of your father's records. We would be most appreciative for any help you can give us in this urgent work and would be grateful if you could communicate to your father the importance of making his records available to us so that these determinations can be done. Let me thank you in behalf of the other members of our group and myself for any assistance you can render us.

It would be possible for some of us to come East again to confer with Dr. Field if you feel that this would be helpful.

Cordially yours,

Robert J. Hasterlik, M.D.
Director
Health Services Division

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bc: A. M. Brues ✓
W. B. Looney ✓
L. D. Marinelli