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October 30, 1959

Dr. Robert Schwartz
Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital
3395 Scranton Road
Cleveland 9, Ohio

Dear Bob:

Very glad to hear from you, albeit sorry that the Sr-85 experiment has apparently fallen through. Well, perhaps we can do something along this line at a later time.

I have started a series of patients with Dr. Herta Spencer at Montefiore to measure Sr-85 metabolism. These are cancer patients but hopefully normal as regards calcium metabolism. We hope to extend the study later to various types of skeletal disorders.

I am very interested in this study of Vitamin D resistant rickets - I wish we could work something out. Our biggest problem is getting patients to count, it seems. How is your own whole-body counter, small size, coming along? I have since put together a whole-body counter for rats with a single NaI crystal and a pulse-height analyzer. It has been working quite well in one experiment in which we have attempted to influence the retention of Sr-85 by altering the diet insofar as stable strontium to calcium ratio. It seems that we increase the retention of Sr-85 by a diet high in stable strontium unless the strontium-rich diet is started before the isotope is given. If we saturate the skeletons with strontium in young animals, they take up and retain only 1/3 as much Sr-85 as the controls. All very interesting, but the diets were rather extreme as far as the Sr/Ca ratios were concerned.

Looks like there is a better than even chance that we will get to do whole-body counting on the Japanese at Nagasaki this spring. Conard has been working hard on this deal and my arm was twisted. Sounds like fun, however, and it may be quite interesting.

Hope you get out this way soon, Bob. I will certainly stop by if I am in your neighborhood. Let's hear from you as I'd be very interested in learning what you are working on.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Stanton H. Cohn, Ph.D.
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