

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

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DEPARTMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

January 20, 1960

Dr. Charles L. Dunham
Director, Division of Biology & Medicine
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Chuck:

In view of the increasing possibility that there will be a re-run of the Yugoslavian reactor accident under I.A.E.A. auspices, may I raise a question concerning the acquisition of additional bio-medical information from that accident. There are two kinds of information which would be of great value were they to be made available in the course of this reinvestigation.

The first is the fairly obvious need for follow-up data on the surviving individuals. Rumor has it that they all developed rather severe mental depression and in fact, one attempted suicide during the past year. In addition, another story concerns the very early development of radiation cataracts in some members of this group. There has not yet, to my knowledge, been any clinical report published in the medical literature by the Yugoslavian physicians in charge of these patients. The second bit of information desired would be of particular value to George Thoma and me as an aid to validation of the procedures we have already published for dealing with radiation over-exposure. We are very anxious to obtain, for this purpose, the results of any blood counts performed during the second 24-hour period following the accident. We have personally consulted the French physicians who cared for these patients subsequent to that time. They have assured us that their data began on the third day or beyond 48 hours post-exposure. Several efforts to obtain the missing information by correspondence with Yugoslavian personnel have met with failure. If at all possible, we would strongly urge that in the course of this reinvestigation such information be sought.

I do not know what plans have been made for medical participation in this study, other than those mentioned in Sterling Cole's original Press release. If someone is going to carry out this aspect of the study, we would be happy to correspond directly if you can supply us with the name of the investigator. If this aspect of the study has not been planned, it would certainly seem worthy of your consideration.

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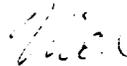
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We are in the process here of preparing a formal proposal concerning the neptunium metabolism studies to be carried out by our group. Since the inhalation work is to be performed at Rochester, it would be of value for us to know who at that institution will be the principle investigator, in order that we may collaborate properly with that aspect of the study.

*Rec'd
Holloman
in the
file.*

Regarding the industrial health problem which necessitates this research, I understand that a formal document is now going through operational channels and should therefore be in your hands before too long. Since I have urged this course, I hope that it will have been implemented by the time I make another visit to Paducah next week.

Sincerely yours,



Niel Wald, M. D.
Associate Research Professor
of Radiation Health

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