

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI  
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April 28, 1993

Dr. Kenneth Shine  
President, Institute of Medicine  
National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20418

ACH1.000012.018a

Dear Dr. Shine:

Enclosed is a report of an Air Force medical study that outlines how human subjects, including Eskimos and Athabaskan Indians in Alaska, were used to study human acclimatization to cold. This particular study used tracer doses of a radioactive isotope — Iodine-131 — to determine metabolic rates. I would greatly appreciate assistance from specialists at the Institute of Medicine in answering the following questions:

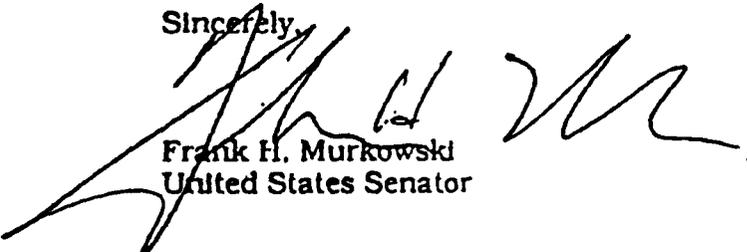
- Does it appear that this study was conducted in accordance with generally accepted guidelines governing the use of human participants in medical experimentation?
- Was the administration of Iodine-131 dosages in accordance with radiation exposure standards of the time? Were they in accordance with the radiation exposure standards of today?

If it is not possible to provide me with some insight on these questions based on the enclosed information, I would appreciate any guidance you might provide about the guidelines that *should* have been followed, particularly as they relate to:

- the notification of participants about the possible risks, if any, that were involved with the experiment;
- whether or not follow up surveys should have been performed to assure that the participants suffered no long term ill effects.

Thank you for any assistance you might provide in this matter. For the benefit of your staff, my staff contact is David Garman, who can be reached at (202) 224-5127.

Sincerely,

  
Frank H. Murkowski  
United States Senator

Enclosure