

The University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry - Sept 14, 1948

Dear Dr. Warren:

*Material used at meeting 10/18/48*

Thank you for your letter of August 31. It had not occurred to us that we were suffering serious net losses of personnel of the full-time staff. Dr. Stafford L. Warren took Dr. Robert Fink who was subsequently replaced by Dr. Leon L. Miller, Dr. Fred A. Bryan who was replaced by Dr. Joe W. Howland, and Dr. Dowdy who was replaced by myself. Excepting in the third case, I think we gained considerably by these changes.

Dr. Rekers, also of the full-time staff, is a surgeon professionally who on account of various personality difficulties was not acceptable to John Morton and Herman Pearson as a member of the surgical staff. Consequently, he was not able to make a convenient part-time practice, part-time Project research arrangement such as he wanted for financial reasons. He hopes to solve this problem by joining the Emory Tumor Clinic Group in Los Angeles.

Of the consultant group we lost Dr. Curt Stern who was Professor of Biology in the University. No attempt was made to continue his Drosophila work as none of his associates stayed in the University and he proposed to complete it himself at Berkeley. Another consultant, Dr. John Lawrence, went with Stafford Warren as Professor of Medicine. He supervised the hematology program which we feel is ably continued by Dr. Lawrence Young who replaced Dr. Lawrence in the Department of Medicine of the Medical School.

Stafford Warren also took Dr. Samuel Bassett for the Veterans Hospital at Sawtelle. He was a member of the Department of Medicine part-time staff and part-time on the project while doing the work on human metabolism of radioactive elements. He is interested in human metabolism, and although he would have stayed here if the work in that field had been feasible, he was not sufficiently interested in doing similar work in animals to continue with any plan we could offer.

We agreed with Stafford Warren and Dowdy that it would be of mutual advantage to the two Projects and the Commission if certain personnel who could be spared or replaced here were offered positions at Los Angeles. This has been accomplished in the cases cited above. In two or three other instances in which it might have been feasible, the California offers were not accepted.

Viewing the problem generally, the principal scientists on the full-time research staff are made up of the four Division Heads and fourteen Section Heads. Of this group nine have been with the Project since its inception in 1943. Another (Dr. Howland) started in 1944 and was absent in the Army to return in 1947. Two others have been with the School since before the war but were not on the Project. Four others have been associated with the School for about ten years but were absent on military service or in other positions during the war period and returned to the Project at various times since 1945. Only two of this group, Dr. James K. Scott, the pathologist, and Dr. Kurt Salomon, the enzyme chemist are relatively new either to the Project or the School. Consequently, we would be less astonished if the school has attracted a sufficiently good group of instructors during the last fifteen years that a selection from them was about as good as we could obtain.

326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

RG  
Collection *Division of Biology Medicine*  
Box *1*  
Folder *5*

*partially in folder*

1059798

The turnover among younger scientists and technicians was quite high just after the war in part because no assurance could be given as to the continuance of the Project and in part because work in other fields had been contemplated previous to employment by the Manhattan District. The turnover in this group continues to be rather high because being associated with the Medical School, many of the more competent members are prospective or delayed students or wives of students or resident staff members.

With regard to a radiologist, Dr. Louis Hempelmann was offered this position last Spring with the privilege of leaving a final decision until this Fall. We feel that unless he were seriously interested, he would have turned us down long since. However, his decision is not due until sometime this month, I think.

During the last year we have acquired the following staff members.:

Dr. J. Newell Stannard who has had training and experience in biology, pharmacology, and physiology. He was with the Navy as a scientific adviser during the war on leave from the National Institute of Health to which he returned and then came here. He is in charge of the work on metabolism of ingested radioactive materials.

Dr. S. Lee Crump who has just recently come to us from Iowa State. He is trained in biology and statistics with a special interest in planning of experiments.

Dr. Kenneth McCormell who has recently joined our staff. He is a biochemist and physiologist to work on physiology disturbances attending radiation.

Dr. Robert Gosselin, a Ph.D. in Physiology and an M.D. to handle problems in animal physiology in connection with chemical toxicology..

Dr. Taft Toribara, an analytical chemist to solve some of the problems of chemical analysis in chemical toxicology.

Dr. Joseph T. Payne, a young surgeon associate of Dr. Herman Pearse to carry out the flash-burn problem under his direction.

On the whole, on account of our academic association I suppose, we have not found it as difficult to obtain qualified personnel as it is generally said to be.

Perhaps for your files you would like a list of our scientific staff with brief histories and bibliographies. We are hoping to prepare one soon and will send you a copy.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Henry A. Blair, Director  
ATOMIC ENERGY PROJECT

C O P Y

1059799

DOE ARCHIVES