

Dr. Warren 109

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Dr. Shields Warren, Director, Division of
Biology and Medicine
FROM : Paul C. Aebersold, Chief, Isotopes Division *PC*
SUBJECT: RADIOISOTOPES PROCESSED FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

DATE: April 15, 1948

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IN REPLY
REFER TO: IT:NHW

Reference is made to your memorandum of April 8 requesting information on the (1) preparation of colloidal radiogold and (2) synthesis of radioauro-thiosulphate by Abbott Laboratories and (3) synthesis of S 35 labeled by Ayerst, McKenna and Harrison, Ltd.

Dr. D. L. Tabern, Director of Special Research, Abbotts Laboratories, has been working closely with Dr. P. F. Hahn, with whom you are acquainted and who developed the use of colloidal radiogold in the treatment of certain types of leukemia. Using Dr. Hahn's methods, Dr. Tabern is preparing radiogold colloid for distribution to physicians and research groups approved by our Subcommittee on Human Applications. At present only the Tumor Clinic at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, has been approved for allocation. However, others have expressed an interest in obtaining the material later. Copies of reprints describing the work of Dr. Hahn and associates are enclosed.

At present Dr. Tabern is obtaining the radiogold under arrangements with Argonne National Laboratory. This has proven most convenient to Dr. Tabern due to his proximity to Argonne and the short half-life of Au 198. The target gold is a specially purified product supplied by Dr. Tabern. In addition to approval by our Subcommittee on Human Application, all recipients of the colloidal gold must also be approved by appropriate authorities at Argonne.

Dr. Tabern is also preparing radioauro-thiosulphate for Drs. John Lawrence and C. A. Tobias at the University of California. This material is being used in a research program on the action of gold in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in animals. Abbott Laboratories have long been interested in the function of auro-thiosulphate in this disease.

Also enclosed is the announcement describing the program of Ayerst, McKenna, and Harrison, Ltd. It is to be noted that Ayerst, McKenna, and Harrison, Ltd. are making the sulphur labeled female sex hormones available free of charge to qualified and approved applicants. Although we are not familiar with all of the detailed financial arrangements between Abbott Laboratories and the recipients of the gold

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preparations, Abbott Laboratories have been donating Dr. Tabern's service. It is reasonable to expect that at some future dates changes will have to be made. However, this beginning seems very worthwhile as it enlists two more ethical manufacturers and processors in the field of radioisotope utilization.

Commercial organizations other than Tracerlab, Inc., Boston, are becoming interested in preparing the basic radioisotopes supplied by our facilities for use in therapy and research. This service may take the form of purification of the basic radiomaterial, chemical synthesis into suitable compounds, sterilization and preparation of doses to be administered, and standardization of radioactivity. Tracerlab with its C 14 synthesis program and consultant work has been in the field for some time. This office believes that the participation of other ethical companies in this field should be encouraged when the companies have adequate facilities for handling radioisotopes and personnel qualified to do accreditable work. We will write to you further on this matter in the near future. Possibly we may get together to discuss further commercial participation in the medical and biological aspects of isotope distribution.

Nathan H. Woodruff
for - Paul C. Aebersold

Encls.:

1. Cir. A-3 (in quad.)
2. Cir. E-20 (in quad.)

CC: A. H. Holland, Jr.

Woodruff/jnc

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