

December 2, 1954

Dr. B. V. Low-Bear
 Dept. of Radiology
 U. C. Medical Center
 San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Dr. Low-Bear:

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting of the Subcommittee on Human Applications in Los Angeles. I would be very grateful if you would present our viewpoint at this meeting. I feel strongly concerning the following points:

1. I thought all along that it would be very advisable to have a thorough and in some respects uniform indoctrination into the basic nature of radioactivity for each medical man who plans to use radioactive materials clinically.

2. The actual amount of training needed would probably differ, depending on the individual's past experience and background. I believe the committee acted wisely in certain cases in the past where they allowed limited use of radioactive materials to some individuals who had a great deal of background in radiology but only limited experience with radioactive materials.

3. From past experience with individuals who were trained in the Donner Laboratory we find that the ideal amount of training for a research man is one or two years with the individual taking regular courses, as well as having immediate experience in the laboratory. I believe, however, that a concentrated course of 2-3 months' duration, such as is being planned at the medical school of the university, would be adequate. Radiologists would probably finish their training in about 2 months, and medical men other than radiologists in 3 months.

4. Even after this period the committee should only allow the use of radioactivity to an individual if a thoroughly qualified person in charge of the training gives a favorable statement.

5. There should still be a way for outstanding individuals who have acquired in some other way equivalent knowledge to that obtainable by the training programs to be allowed to use isotopes in their laboratory if they show proof of their qualifications.

I hope that the training program planned at the medical school will become a reality. We feel that it would make a distinct advance

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in the field if such training programs were to become accepted as the basis for qualifications of medical uses of radioisotopes. I hope that you will communicate the general meaning of these views to the sub-committee in Los Angeles.

Sincerely yours,

Cornelius A. Tobias

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