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Dr. John Lawrence

May 10, 1944

Preliminary report on the committee appointed to study administrative organization of Medical Physics.

The third meeting of this committee was held on May 3, 1944, with all members present and with the following conclusions:

1. That the title of this division or sub-division should be "medical physics" as suggested in the original communication of Professors Ernest Lawrence and Raymond T. Birro.

It was felt by all members, however, that medical physics should not be limited to nuclear or radiation physics, but that the scope of activities and the organization of the sub-division should be such that other problems relating to physics and physical chemistry, agriculture and to medicine, should be included in both the research and teaching in the future. Such activities would include relations to other biological sciences directly or indirectly connected with medicine and specifically would include such work as that now being carried on by Louis Strait in his spectrograph laboratory.

2. The recommended organization of this division or sub-division is as follows:

(a) There should be a nucleus of men including Doctors John Lawrence, Joseph Hamilton, Ashersold and Tobias, who would hold joint appointments in the Medical School and in the Department of Physics, and then a second group of people who would play important parts in the development of medical physics, such as Doctors Miller, Chaikoff, Hamilton Anderson, Robert Aird, Strait, Low-Beer, Althausen, David Greenberg, C. L. A. Smith and Foley. This second group would be carrying out experimental studies and therapeutic studies through the Medical School.

(b) That the major funds for fundamental research in the Berkeley laboratories should be supported by physics even though the salaries of the four men in the first group mentioned above should be divided between the Department of Physics and the Medical School. It was felt that certain work related to humans such as neutron therapy, would have to be done in Berkeley because of the availability of the cyclotron there. Certain experimental work on human beings, particularly tracer studies, might have to be initiated in Berkeley but as soon as possible should be conducted on the San Francisco campus. It was felt that the human application of nuclear physics should be handled on the San Francisco campus wherever possible, and that people doing this work might well have temporary appointments in the Department of Medical Physics, as well as in their special division of the Medical School.

(c) It is obvious that most of the fundamental work will be done under the auspices of the Department of Physics, and that somebody in Medical Physics should be responsible to the Chairman of the Department of Physics for administrative purposes. This is particularly important because of group studies with men in the school at Davis, and in other division on the Berkeley campus.

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(d) It was felt that as far as the Medical School was concerned, that all studies related to human beings should be under the control of someone on the San Francisco campus responsible administratively to the Dean of the Medical School.

3. Teachings: It was felt that Physics 125, which is an upper division course in nuclear physics and its applications, should be continued and recommended to premedical students. In addition, it was felt that a new course in medical physics coming in the second semester of the first year with one or two lectures per week, should be instituted and should cover the fundamental aspects of nuclear physics and the applications of tracer studies to medicine as well as therapeutic uses of radioactive materials. It was also suggested that wherever radioactive studies were useful in such courses as bio-chemistry, physiology, medicine, they should be included in the lectures of those courses in order to supplement and expand the first year course in medical physics.

Respectfully submitted,

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