

## BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 13, 1985

TO: R. E. Hughes

FROM: N. P. Samios *NS*  
R. B. Setlow *RBS*  
C. J. Shellabarger *CJS*

SUBJECT: Comments on the Visiting Committee Report for the Medical Department, 1985

We appreciate the efforts of the Visiting Committee and its careful review of the programs of the Department. It is obvious that the Department is in difficulty. Some of the reasons result from funding decisions not closely linked to the caliber of ongoing scientific programs. Others result from a failure to recruit young, innovative relevant investigators because of a general squeeze in DOE funding. We agree that the most important single step which should be taken is to obtain new leadership for the Department. A search for a new Chairman is underway. There are a number of good candidates. If a new Chairman cannot be recruited, then we agree with the fall-back plan suggested by the Visiting Committee to consider combining the Medical and Biology Departments under Dr. Setlow. This, however, is clearly not a preferred option as the Visiting Committee points out.

The following are comments on the individual scientific programs:

The Committee recommended that the Hematology Program, which currently consists of E. P. Cronkite as the only investigator, be supplemented by the addition of a new, young research Hematologist. We agree. If DOE and the American Petroleum Institute support is forthcoming, it is expected that there will be a search for an addition to this scientific staff.

The Committee suggested that some additional endpoints of biological injury be added to Carsten's Tritiated Water Studies Program. This is an excellent suggestion. However, at present, the funding for FY 1986 shows no increase over FY 1985, and therefore, this suggestion cannot be implemented. This suggestions will, however, be discussed more extensively with DOE.

The Large Animal Pulmonary Program (Chanana and Joel) has truly faced a funding roller coaster. Currently funding is available for only a terminal year in 1986. There was the possibility of obtaining some additional monies, but Chanana and Joel felt that they needed the funding available in FY 1985 to carry on effectively. This funding will not be obtained. Hence, although the Committee and other outside reviewers have given the program high marks, DOE is phasing out the program. Similarly, the Inhalation Toxicology Facility of Drew is to receive no

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funds from DOE in FY 1986, even though the facility is truly outstanding and the accomplishments of Drew are widely recognized. Drew is looking for other sources of support and is actively engaged in looking for another position. A new Rohm and Haas contract will be obtained (total dollars approximately \$190,000) to do non-proprietary research in collaboration with the Biology Department. Thus, even though the Committee recommended that the Large Animal Pulmonary Program and the Inhalation Toxicology Groups be kept intact, this seems not possible at the present time. There is a good probability that Drs. Chanana, Joel, and Drew will depart soon.

The Visiting Committee was concerned about an apparent lack of interaction between the Chanana-Joel and the Drew program. We feel that any lack of interaction is more apparent than real. The Inhalation Toxicology Facility was designed for small animals and operates within the confines of good laboratory practice for small animal research (AAALAC/NIH). The groups assist each other to the extent of collaboration on technology. Until recently the physiology component of Drew's program (all have now left BNL due to lack of funding) assisted Chanana and Joel with their inhalation procedures. Much collaboration exists between the large animal program and the nuclear medicine program (Brill, Susskind, and Bennett) with sheep studies using the UNICON camera and other facilities. Borg and Chanana are planning some joint projects.

The Committee was concerned about the research program of Tice. Part of the apparent diffuse nature of the Program was the result of inadequate funding leading Tice to seek outside support of a testing nature and to work for a significant period of time helping Alexander Hollaender organize meetings and symposia. The Department shares, and has anticipated, the concerns of the Committee. It has communicated these concerns to Tice. The Trustees have granted him a two year extension (from October 1, 1986) of his appointment.

The Free Radical Program of Borg, Forman, and Schaich was viewed by the Committee as a group that could play a potentially important role in a revitalized department. We agree and we also agree with their comments on the inadequate publication record of the group. The current support of the group is from DOE and from the Director's Office (Borg's salary). DOE funding in FY 1986 is the same as in FY 1985 and the Director's Office will no longer pick up Borg's salary. Thus, DOE support will not permit the group to remain intact. Borg has applied for Exploratory Research Funds. If he is successful in this application, the financial problems of the group will be mostly alleviated.

The Molecular Cytogenetics Program of Dr. Michael Bender was well reviewed with the conclusion, "Dr. Bender should continue to be a valuable resource to BNL, and his program should continue to be an important and viable one within the Department." Agreed.

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The Medical Physics Program of Dr. S. H. Cohn was considered by the Visiting Committee to be a high quality. To the comment, "... it is a shame that the work is not translated more effectively into the biomedical world at large," we can only respond that such a lack of transfer is not the fault of Dr. Cohn. He has a large roster of Medical collaborators in hospitals in the U.S. and abroad.

The Visiting Committee believes that the Nuclear Medicine Program (Brill) and the Radiopharmaceutical Programs are doing well at present and they could do even better under new leadership. We agree.

Finally, the Visiting Committee, in reference to the  $^{35}\text{S}$  thiouracil, the photon activation therapy, and the neutron capture projects of Slatkin and Fairchild, states that these projects have some interest and are appropriate for Brookhaven but they cannot be pursued without an intimate collaboration with a group experienced in the radiobiology of in vivo animal tumors. This shortcoming is recognized by Slatkin and Fairchild and they have been searching for such a collaboration. We hope their interaction with SUNY-SB will be fruitful. The return of Victor Bond to the Medical Department will give them access to an in-house radiation biologist.

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Memo to File

This response was distributed in June. Dr. Samia considered it a report to the Visiting Committee.

Dr. Samia's official response was by letter, dated July 3, to Dr. Hughes -

From Carol Robert

Form 1855

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