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UPTON, L.I., N.Y.

TEL PATCHGUE 3-2600

REFER:

63220 July 9, 1956

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* LTR DNA SWISHER TO
DOE MA 225, 1-23-90

VIA AIR MAIL

Captain R. A. Hinners, USN
Commanding Officer
Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory
San Francisco, California

Reply will be made by
RG 181 AGENCIES NRDL RPN 7/11

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Location SAN BRUNO FRC
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Dear Captain Hinners:

I have been requested by Dr. C. L. Dunham, Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of AEC, to take charge of the continuing follow-up medical surveys of the Marshallese. We plan our three-year post exposure survey to take place around 1 March 1957. As we all know, the highly successful results of previous surveys have been in a very large part due to the splendid cooperation and support of the Navy, and particularly of you at the Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory and at the Naval Medical Research Institute. Both Doctor Dunham and I hope that we can count on you for your continued support and cooperation. I am therefore writing this informal letter to you in regard to preliminary plans for the forthcoming survey.

On this survey it is anticipated that the exposed people of Rongelap and Utrik and the control population at Majuro will be examined. More extensive studies including a greater number of complete blood counts and other laboratory procedures, XGC studies, and urine collections for radiochemical analyses, in addition to thorough physical examinations will be carried out. This more extended survey will therefore require a larger medical team and will require some five to six weeks to accomplish.

At this time the personnel situation for the medical team is about like this. At a conference last week with Captain Van der Aue of NMRI in regard to participation of that Institute he has agreed (subject to Navy approval) to furnish HMC Schork and HMI Clutter and perhaps a medical officer. Lt. Jon. I. V. King (MSC) USN, has consented to act as liaison officer for the Navy. NMRI has also been requested to allow Mr. Maynard Wicher (Electrician Seniorist) to accompany the team.

The Army has tentatively agreed to allow Colonel C. S. Maupin and Colonel A. Lowrey to participate.

Brookhaven is sending, besides myself, Dr. B. Cannon and Dr. C. Higgins and possibly a technician.

From Majuro at least one nurse and interpreter-technicians will be required.

As for NRDL, I would greatly appreciate your consideration in fulfilling the following personnel requirements:

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Captain R. A. Himmers, USN

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1. A medical officer specializing in internal medicine (preferably with boards in internal medicine). In view of the great importance of evaluating the possible radiation effects on increase in degenerative diseases and increase ageing, etc., a physician specializing in internal medicine is essential.

2. Statistician. In view of past difficulties in interpreting and analyzing blood data based on only one complete count, more numerous blood sampling will be necessary. A statistician could be of great assistance in evaluating sampling errors, adequacy of counts, etc. If Mr. H. Hechter could be permitted to accompany the team, his talents would be a real asset in these analyses.

3. Photographer. We could probably get a Navy photographer elsewhere, but Mr. William Murray of your laboratory has done such outstanding photography on a previous survey team that it would be extremely desirable to have him participate again.

4. Another technician with hematological experience is badly needed to round out the laboratory group.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider the above participation by NRDL at your earliest convenience and let me know how you feel about it since I am anxious to get a tentative line-up of personnel before sending Dr. Dunham the proposed organization.

AEC will take care of all cost of transportation, per diem, and equipment and supplies. I presume an allotment will be made to either BuMed or BuShips to be divided proportionately between NRDL and NMRI.

I realize that the greater time involved in the next survey imposes an added burden. However, in view of the importance of these studies to the Navy and the AEC it is sincerely hoped that you can see your way clear to participate again.

SAN BRUNO FBG

Hope everything is going well at NRDL. With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,



Robert A. Conard, M. D.

RAC:reh