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MINUTES

107th MEETING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE
U. S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

710887 (710889)

AEC OFFICE
1717 H St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.

January 8 -9, 1965

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The 107th meeting of the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine was held at the AEC "H" Street Office on January 8 and 9, 1965. Committee members present were Dr. Fred J. Hodges (Chairman), Dr. J. H. Sterner (Vice-Chairman), Drs. William F. Bale, Philip P. Cohen, Earl L. Green, Robert F. Loeb, Carl V. Moore, and M. B. Russell, and Harvey M. Patt, Scientific Secretary, and Miss Rosemary Elmo, Executive Secretary. Dr. C. L. Dunham, Director, and Dr. J. R. Totter, Associate Director for Research, Division of Biology and Medicine, were also in attendance.

There was no formal agenda for this meeting. Major attention was given to the preparation of the final draft of an evaluation of offsite contract processing in response to a request by the Commission. The report was completed and will be submitted to the Chairman of the AEC at an early date.

Dr. Dunham briefed the ACBM on some recent developments:

1. Dr. W. F. Neuman and Dr. Aser Rothstein will serve alternately as director and co-director of the Rochester Project upon the retirement of Dr. Henry Blair.
2. Bids for the Michigan State University construction were higher than anticipated. AEC has offered to amortize construction only up to 2.3 million dollars.
3. The Hanford Laboratories, now operated by Battelle Memorial Institute, has been renamed Pacific Northwest Laboratories.
4. A modest increase has been requested for DBM in the President's budget.
5. The DBM program at the University of California, Davis, will be more effectively integrated into the School of Veterinary Medicine.
6. The most recent cesium counts in the Eskimo population under study showed a decrease in body burdens of Cs¹³⁷ of about 20%.
7. It would appear that the thyroid nodules described in several of the Rongelap natives represent a benign, and not a malignant, process.

Dr. Totter described briefly the DBM interest in ecological aspects of a feasibility study regarding the use of nuclear devices for construction

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of a new canal (to replace the present Panama Canal).

Dr. Lloyd Tepper, of DBM and the Division of Operational Safety, discussed some problems in connection with the supply of DTPA (diethylene triamine pentacetic acid) to AEC installations. DTPA, which is highly effective in the removal of unbound plutonium, is presently supplied by the Geigy Chemical Co. as an investigational drug. Geigy is not interested in marketing DTPA as a new drug and the question arises whether the AEC should undertake chronic toxicity tests required for Food & Drug Administration accreditation. While the AEC could request exemption from FDA control, it was felt that a reasonable temporary solution would be for the AEC to stock and distribute DTPA directly to its various installations and contractors. Dr. Tepper indicated that in this way the drug could be kept on an investigational basis for a prolonged period. The ACBM concurred with the latter proposal and also suggested that DBM might ask appropriate Commission-supported laboratories to examine chronic toxicity of DTPA over the next few years.

There was some discussion of the recent Rhode Island accident. In connection with this, the Committee expressed interest in further briefing by the Licensing Division.

The ACBM suggested that it might be useful for DBM to provide potential and actual investigators on AEC contracts (offsite) with a manual describing its review procedures.

The Minutes of the 105th meeting were amended by addition of the following sentence to the last paragraph on page 2: "Subsequent information indicates that the diagnosis of carcinoma may have been incorrect in each instance."

The Minutes of the 106th meeting were approved as circulated.

The 108th meeting of the ACBM is scheduled for March 26-27, 1965 at the Pacific Northwest Laboratories, Richland, Washington. The 109th meeting is scheduled tentatively for May 14-15 at the Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harvey M. Patt
Scientific Secretary,
Advisory Committee for Biology
and Medicine

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