

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

PAUL BERG

*Jack, Lulu and Sam Willson
Professor of Biochemistry*

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Dr. Daniel Nathans
Department of Microbiology
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland 21205

Dear Dan,

I'm writing to follow up on the Cancer CAP meeting discussion of guidelines for Biohazard monitoring. Let me say that I'm not in favor of doing nothing. But neither do I favor becoming a regulatory agency for biohazard control. Your suggestion of placing the burden on the investigator's institution seems wise, provided we can supply them with or direct them to an appropriate set of guidelines for containment of potentially infectious agents (and particularly putative oncogenic agents).

To facilitate the drafting of a statement that would not be overly restrictive, bureaucratic, but nevertheless make sense, I'd like to get your views as to what general or specific guidelines you would like to see investigators apply to research with infectious biologic agents or tissues and cell cultures known to harbor or generate such agents.

Perhaps when I've collected all of your views, we can see what would be the best course for the Society to follow.

Sincerely yours,



PB:af
cc. Maurice Hilleman
George Klein
Edward Reich