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July 10, 1973

Dr. Paul Berg
Stanford University Medical Center
Department of Biochemistry
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Paul:

Your letter of June 11, concerning Biohazards in Cancer Research, awaited my return.

I have gotten hold of the "Minimum Standards of Biological Safety and Environmental Control for Contractors of the SVCP" dated August 1972. I find it rather seasoned and pretty much good sense. There was a meeting on 3/14/73 concerning this and I am told there will be a new revision soon which will likely make the standards more realistic as regards especially university-type research.

My conclusion is that the guideline is good and lacking in any of the partially suppressed hysteria of Asilomar. It is a guideline which I believe the American Cancer Society could concur in and to which they could make reference.

I have enclosed a copy of the August 1972 draft.

My suggestions are that:

- a. We review the present and the new revised procedures as soon as issued.
- b. We adopt them without modification unless there is a real need.
- c. We add the following statement:

"These are guidelines prepared by the Office of Biohazard and Environmental Control of the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health. They should be adhered to as closely as feasible within the resources and facilities available to the grantee. In any event, a local committee should be formed at the place where the grantee is working and that the local administration shall assume the responsibility for determining what is minimally proper and possible for

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the local situation."

If we on the committee can agree on this, perhaps you would wish to bring it up at the next Council meeting.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Maurice R. Hilleman, Ph.D.
Director, Virus & Cell Biology Research
Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research

/mmh

Encl.

cc: Dr. G. Klein
Dr. D. Nathans ✓
Dr. E. Reich
Dr. E. Barkley (NCI)

P.S. The source for the revised biohazard standards is:

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