

March 15, 2001

Laurence J.N. Cooper, MD, Ph.D.
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, D3-100
1100 Fairview Ave. N.
P.O. Box 19024
Seattle, Washington 98109-1024

Dear Dr. Cooper:

I am responding to your letter of February 11, 2001, in which you propose *a priori* collection of autologous stem cells for individuals at risk of severe radiation exposures. Although I appreciate your inquiry as to our comments on this procedure, I believe more substantive comments could be provided by others.

Specifically, the activities and operations of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licensees are designed in such a manner that radiation exposures of a magnitude that would require bone marrow transplants are very unlikely, even under severe accident conditions. We seek to assure that the probability of needing to use a procedure such as the one you propose due to exposures from NRC-licensed facilities is very small. However, you may wish to pursue this idea with other organizations. A good starting point may be the Radiation Emergency Assistance Center/Training Site (REAC/TS), operated by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This group is trained to respond to radiation emergencies, and has the expertise necessary to consider your proposal.

I hope this suggestion is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve