



# UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

September 24, 2008

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES  
BRANCH  
USARPC

Michael Lesar  
Chief, Rulemaking, Directives, and Editing Branch  
Office of Administration  
Mail Stop T-6D59  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Lesar,

Please find enclosed with this letter two responses from Principal Investigators at the University of Virginia regarding the NRC's Request for Comments on Cesium-137 Chloride Sources. The letters were submitted to the Environmental Health and Safety Office, after they had been afforded the opportunity to read the NRC's statement.

Both Dr. Joel Linden of the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine and Dr. Kenneth Tung, Professor of Pathology and Microbiology, indicate a vital need for these irradiators for not only their research, but the research of their colleagues throughout the University of Virginia

Because of the potential dire effects that would occur to the research community with the removal of these devices, careful consideration should be given to finding alternative means through which irradiations could be accomplished before any such measures are implemented.

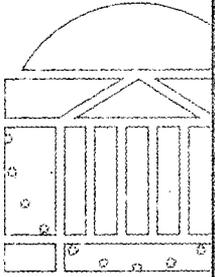
Sincerely,

Ralph O. Allen, RSO  
Chairman, Radiation Safety Committee

P.O. Box 400322 • Charlottesville, VA 22904-4322  
Phone: 434-982-4911 • Fax: 434-243-1735  
<http://ehs.virginia.edu/>

SUNSI Review Complete  
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Add =  
J. Jankovich (JP52)



September 8, 2008

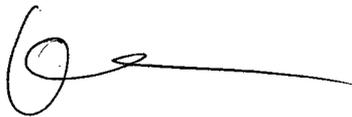
Mr Trevor K. Thomas  
Sr. Radiation Safety Technician  
University of Virginia  
Environmental Health & Safety  
P.O. Box 400322  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4322

Dear Trevor,

As you know, our NIH-sponsored autoimmunity research is heavily dependent on using the CsCl source for irradiating cells for in vitro experiments. The elimination of the CsCl source will have major impact on our work. More seriously, it will influence the comparison of data between future work versus our historical and current research. We therefore do not support elimination of the CsCl source.

Thank you for your attention to the above.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Tung, MD  
Professor of Pathology and Microbiology  
University of Virginia

## Thomas, Trevor (tk4j)

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**From:** Linden, Joel M \*HS [JL4V@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 04, 2008 12:43 PM  
**To:** Thomas, Trevor K  
**Cc:** Engelhard, Victor H  
**Subject:** Mouse irradiator

Dear Trevor,

I received a copy of an e-mail from Vicki Morris of the University of Cincinnati with your card attached but I did not understand that this was in reference to possibly shutting down the mouse irradiator until I spoke to my technician. The mouse irradiator is a critical research tool for numerous laboratories and is essential for multiple NIH funded research projects. The availability of a mouse irradiator is essential to the research enterprise of a modern medical center. I understand that there are some concerns about CsCl sources I have no objection to investigating safer instruments than the one we have currently, but the irradiator cannot be removed without crippling the research enterprise of multiple investigators. The current instrument should not be removed until a replacement instrument is installed.

Joel Linden