



Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center



The Prostate Cancer Research Program
The Cancer & Aging Immunology Interest Group
Summer Research Training Program

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October 7, 2008

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HA

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

Reference: Security and Continued Use of Cesium-137 Sources

Dear Mr. Laser:

I write to express my concern about the possible closure of Cesium-137 in the very near future. I am the Associate Director in the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa. As part of my responsibilities I oversee the Shared Research Facilities that includes the Radiation Core Facility. The facility has a Cesium source that provides research related radiation services to the University of Iowa research community as well as researchers from other institutions here in the state of Iowa.

The Cesium-source was installed more than 20 years ago and since then the facility is heavily used by numerous researchers both from this university and other institutions. These investigators include a diverse group of individuals representing the College of Medicine, College of Public Health, Dentistry, Biological Sciences, and Physics. These investigators have research funding from the NIH, NIEHS, DOE, DOD, NASA, several scientific foundations, private donors, and industries. The researchers are using the radiation core facility services to study both basic science and translational research.

Over the years, several layers of security measures have been implemented at the recommendations of the local, state and national regulatory agencies. We feel these safety measures are adequate and the Radiation Core facility here at the University of Iowa is highly secured.

The loss of the Cesium-source will negatively impact upon many of the ongoing and future research endeavors here at the University of Iowa. We request you to consider these issues

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Add = J. Jankovic (SP52)

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RULES AND DIRECTIVES
BRANCH
USNRC

Lesar, p. 2

while finalizing your decision about the security and continued use of the Cesium-sources in numerous research institutions.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

David M. Lubaroff, PhD
Professor of Urology and Microbiology
Associate Director, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center