

RADIATION SAFETY COMMITTEE  
Nuclear Medicine Conference Rm. - 10:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, January 19, 1994

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David W. Yeung, M.D., Chair  
Robert Stevens, AA/Medical Center Director  
Samuel E. Halpern, M.D., Nuclear Medicine Service  
Phillip Hagan, Radiopharmacist, Nuclear Medicine Service  
Wayne Springer, Ph.D., Safety Officer, Research Service  
Verna Nickel, Deputy Chief, Nursing Service  
Lyle Clark, Director for Engineering Management Service  
Michael Andre, Ph.D., Physicist, Radiology Service  
Michael Ocasio, Acting Radiation Safety Officer

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Robert Engler, M.D., ACOS/Research

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stephen Baird, M.D., Chief, Laboratory Service

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:

Edward Silverstein, Ph.D.  
Michael (Kurt) Gehlen

**Note - Unanimous, as it refers to voting applies only to those members present.**

1. Approval of Minutes:

The RSC minutes of October 20, 1994 were approved unanimously with the provision that the following corrections are made: on page 5, 2.e. the first sentence be changed to read "Michael Ocasio reported that Roland Blantz decided not to allow the student to work with radioactivity in the laboratory;" on page 6, continuation of 3a, the following sentence should read, "The RSC approved the RSO report to the RSC by a vote of 8 for, none against, Michael Ocasio abstaining;" and on page 6, 5.a., the following sentence be changed to read, "Since Gary Rossio is Acting Medical Center Director and

will be unable to attend RSC meetings, it will be necessary to have an alternate committee member, with voting privileges, to represent management."

2. Old Business:

a. Report to RSC on policy for a new, single film badge system to be coordinated with UCSD

FINDINGS: Michael Ocasio stated that the coordination of such a policy with UCSD has not been accomplished. He said he would like to continue the present system and address this issue at a later date.

CONCLUSION/ACTION: The RSC unanimously agreed that this would be the best procedure, and that the issue should be addressed again in three months.

b. New NRC, Part 20, regulations for radiation-use workers and the general public

FINDINGS: Michael Ocasio stated that the new NRC, Part 20 went into effect on January 1, 1994 and that what is most applicable to this facility are the provisions addressing the issues of pregnant workers using radiation, radiation in unrestricted areas, and the amount of radioactivity released into the environment from liquid radioactive waste. He reported to the RSC that the new Part 20 states that if pregnant workers declare their pregnancy, they must be monitored for a lower exposure level. He reported that he had submitted a station memorandum on pregnant workers using radiation. However, he said he did not know if it was still in circulation or had been signed off. He said he also had drafted a pamphlet to be given to all pregnant workers, or who could be potentially pregnant. The draft was submitted to the Safety Management Committee. The new Part 20 now allows only 20% of all radiation exposure previously allowed for unrestricted areas. He said that environmental badges from Siemens are to be placed in designated unrestricted areas to monitor radiation.

c. Update of Radiation Safety Manual

FINDINGS: Mr. Ocasio stating that the updating of the Radiation Safety Manual is ongoing, and it should be accomplished before the next quarterly meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION: The RSC recommended that after the changes to the manual are made, they are summarized and sent out to committee members for review. The approval of the changes will then be an agenda item for the next quarterly meeting.

3. Ongoing Business:

a. R.S.O report to R.S.C. - (Non human-use - Non CFR 35)

Mr. Ocasio said that his RSO report was submitted separately and that he had no further statements for the items with the exception of the following:

1. Item 3 - Incidents

Findings: 3. Michael Ocasio reported that there was an incident that occurred in Nuclear Medicine when a misadministration of a radiopharmaceutical was given to a patient. This did not constitute a reportable incident to the NRC because of the low dosage involved. Dr. Yeung to report further in 3.b., Report on Nuclear Medicine and Human-Use Areas.

CONCLUSION: The RSC concluded no action necessary for item 1.

2. Agenda item 7 - New Technicians

FINDINGS: Michael Ocasio reported that he had been authorized to replace Glenn Lassiter who had retired in September. He then introduced Michael (Kurt) Gehlen, a SDSU graduate student, who is a temporary employee working in that position until it can filled permanently. Mr. Ocasio mentioned that because of the technical staff shortage, wipe tests were being accomplished on a random basis. With the full technical staff, wipe tests of all the labs can be accomplished.

CONCLUSION: The RSC determined that there were no questions of any significance or concerns that required reporting in the minutes regarding the RSO report.

CONCLUSION: The RSC approved and accepted the RSO quarterly report to RSC by a vote of 8 for, none against, Michael Ocasio abstaining.

b. Report on Nuclear Medicine and Human Use Areas (10 CFR 35)

1. Film Badges
2. S u r v e y / R a d i a t i o n L e v e l s
3. Misadministrations/Incidents
4. Audits
5. Radiopharmacist Report
6. New Physicians

a. Dr. Yeung reported that Dr. Ernest Belezzuoli has been a new attending nuclear medicine physician since July 17, 1993. Dr. Yeung said that Dr. Belezzuoli was board certified in

Nuclear Medicine, he asked the RSC to approve Dr. Belezzuoli as an authorized radiation user.

CONCLUSION: After discussion, the RSC authorized and approved unanimously Dr. Belezzuoli as an authorized radiation user, retroactive to July 17, 1993.

- 7. New Technicians
- 8. Special

FINDINGS: Dr. Yeung reported that there were no unusual problems with the other agenda items for the report on Nuclear Medicine and Human-Use Areas.

CONCLUSION: It was determined that there were no questions of any significance or concern that required reporting in the minutes. The RSC accepted the Report on Nuclear Medicine and Human Use Areas by a vote of 8 for, none against, Dr. Yeung abstaining.

4. VAMCSD ALARA Program

a. Discussed in the written Radiation Safety Officer's report to RSC, item 1, a.

5. New Business:

- a. External Audit

FINDINGS: Michael Ocasio reported that an external audit radiation safety program was done by Dr. Leidholdt of the Western Region. A copy of his report is available. He said he was instructed by the Director to answer this audit. Dr. Yeung mentioned that an RSC audit of the radiation safety program was accomplished to fulfill the requirement of an annual audit. Dr. Andre pointed out that the RSC audit of the radiation safety program did not address certain radiation-use areas such as radiology. Dr. Yeung indicated that the RSC audit included an audit of records in the Radiation Safety Office, a random sample of a radioactive research laboratory and radioactive waste storage area. Mr. Ocasio said that he has drafted a check list for future audits which would cover every area.

ACTION: The RSC agreed that the external audit conducted by Dr. Leidholdt be circulated to the RSC members for review and that a discussion of the results of this audit be made an agenda item for the next quarterly meeting.

- b. RSO's Annual Report to RSC

CONCLUSION/ACTION: Due to time constraints, the RSC agreed that the RSO's annual report to the RSC be circulated to the members and made an agenda item for the next quarterly meeting.

c. Annual Review of ALARA Program

CONCLUSION: The RSC reviewed and approved the ALARA Program as submitted by Michael Ocasio by a vote of 8 for, none against, Michael Ocasio abstaining.

d. Approval of new RSC member

Dr. Yeung requested that the RSC accept and approve Edward Silverstein, Ph.D., the physicist for Nuclear Medicine, as a member of the RSC. Dr. Silverstein's curriculum vitae was available for review.

CONCLUSION: The RSC voted unanimously to accept Dr. Silverstein as a RSC member.

e. Review and approval of new human use protocols

1. 1118-H; Renee Dupont, M.D.; "The Effects of Partial Sleep Deprivation on Depressed Patients as Compared to Normal Controls as Measured by Nocturnal Polysomnography, HMPAO-SPECT and Clinical Ratings Scales."

CONCLUSION: The RSC reviewed and approved by a vote of 7 for, none against, Drs. Yeung and Halpern abstaining, Human-use Protocol 1118-H, with the provision that the principal investigator's name be changed from Dr. Camilla Clark to Dr. Renee Dupont. Dr. Clark is a fellow and is working under the supervision of Dr. Dupont.

2. 1119-H; Renee Dupont, M.D.; "HMPAO SPECT Brain Imaging in HIV Infection."

CONCLUSION: The RSC reviewed and approved unanimously Human-use Protocol 1119-H.

f. Review and approval for renewal of human-use protocols:

1. 1046-H; Renee Dupont, M.D.; "SPECT and MRI Imaging in Alcoholism and Polysubstance Abuse."

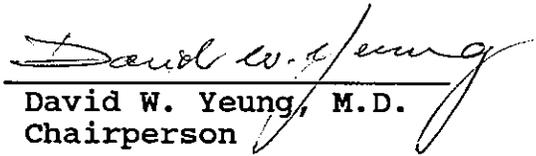
CONCLUSION: The RSC reviewed and approved by a vote of 7 for, none against, Drs. Yeung and Halpern abstaining, for renewal Human-use Protocol 1046-H.

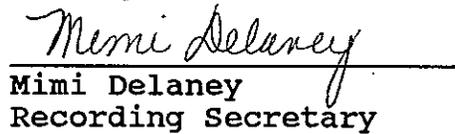
2. 961-H; David W. Yeung, M.D.; "Acute Effect of Smoking on Heart Function and Perfusion."

CONCLUSION: The RSC reviewed and approved by a vote of 8 for, none against, Dr. Yeung abstaining, the renewal of Human-use Protocol 961-H.

6. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

  
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David W. Yeung, M.D.  
Chairperson

  
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Mimi Delaney  
Recording Secretary

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