

October 22, 1956

R. L. Hervin and R. E. Cunningham

VISIT TO VETERANS ADMINISTRATION CENTER, WILSHIRE AND SAWTELLE BOULEVARDS,
LOS ANGELES 25, CALIFORNIA

Department visited: Radioisotope Unit

Users visited: Dr. W. H. Bland, Chief of the Radioisotope Unit and Mrs. Thomas,
Technician.

Type and Date of visit: Repeat evaluation visit. October 3, 1956.

Accompanied by: Mr. Blocker, Los Angeles City Health Department

I. Administrative Control

The program at this institution is a typical Veterans Administration program. The radioisotope committee at this institution is attached in a letter from Dr. Bland, dated July 11, 1956. The only change in this committee is that Dr. Franz K. Bauer is no longer at this institution and has been replaced by Dr. Bland, who is now the chief of the radioisotope unit. In addition to the hospital radioisotope committee, there is also a dean's committee. A list of the dean's committee is also attached to this report. The Dean's committee oversees the activities of the isotope committee and therefore gives a double control on the use of isotopes. Both committees review the use of radioisotopes at this institution. The radiological safety officer for this institution is Dr. Bland. He exercises responsibility over procurement control, responsibility for material and decisions concerning radiation protection. In addition to this, he is also an assistant radiological safety officer for certain portions of the University of California program at Los Angeles. An annual report has been written covering their program at the V. A. Hospital and is attached to this report. This report covers training, diagnostic procedures that were done during 1955, brief description of research work as well as a bibliography on scientific reports that were written by personnel from this institution. Dr. Bland is also chairman of the isotopes committee at Mount Sinai Hospital at Los Angeles. The standard operating procedures used at this institution are the same as written by Dr. Libby several years ago with a few refinements added to these standard operating procedures throughout the interim years. A copy of these procedures is on file with RSB.

II Material Licensed

Material licensed at this institution is as indicated in the attached copy of the license. Approximately 200 millicuries of activity was on hand at the time of the visit. Primarily 90% of this material was Iodine 131. Calibration procedures used at this facility is by absorption method for identification and NBS standards for calibration. These uses at this institution include human use in a few fields of research and several diagnostic and therapeutic uses of radioisotopes. Non-human uses include the use of radioisotopes in animals. Disposal used at this institution is by

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normal sanitary drain for tracer amounts of short lived isotopes. High level and longer-lived isotopes are transferred over to UCLA for disposal. In addition to this, low short-lived isotopes in a dry waste form are buried in the ground on land owned by this facility. Burial procedures are well organized and the dry waste is taken out to the burial grounds in well marked waste containers and dumped and buried with at least 15 feet of dirt over the top of the dry waste.

III. Facilities and Equipment

There are two laboratory rooms for diagnostic and uptake studies. These laboratories were approximately 12' x 15' with linoleum floors and enamel paint on the walls. The diagnostic and uptake laboratories were supplied with laboratory benches and the usual scanning and counting apparatuses for such studies. No isotopes are used in these rooms.

The counting room was approximately 12' x 10' and consisted of wooden laboratory benches along 3 walls. The laboratory had a linoleum floor and enamel paint on the walls. Low level samples are counted in this sample room and high level samples are not allowed in this room. Instrumentation was adequate and as specified in previous applications.

The laboratory where radiochemical studies and sample preparations are made consisted of a room approximately 15' x 25' which was divided in half by a partition. The division was primarily to divide the high level work from the low level work. The portion of this room for high level work consisted of one laboratory bench on which two lead caves were built for storage and pipetting purposes. In addition, a fiber board type laboratory hood was available. The floor of the hood was stainless steel. The ventilation of the hood was adequate for their type of program. The second portion of this room for low level work with radioisotopes was approximately the same as for the high level portion of the room with the exception that there was only one small leaded barricade. The remote equipment noticed in this room consisted of remote handling tongs, pipettes, syringes, and well marked waste containers. The floor was of a teratzo type (inlaid chipped marble) floor with enamel paint on the walls.

In addition to these laboratories, there were 2 small counting laboratories at the main Wadsworth Hospital. These laboratories were not visited at this time due to a lack of time. In addition, all therapeutic or diagnostic doses, and miscellaneous samples are prepared in the laboratory as described in the previous paragraph, prior to use in the main hospital.

Instrumentation at this facility is adequate and as delineated in their previous applications.

IV. Precautionary Procedures

Physical examinations and blood counts are on a routine annual basis. Bioassay procedures are not deemed necessary but are available in case of an emergency. Survey procedures are being practiced at this institution with Mrs. Thomas, the technician, doing routine weekly surveys of the laboratory. All laboratories using radioisotopes were adequately posted with radiation signs. Film badges by Tracerlab and dosimeters are used at this facility. No overexposures were noted.

V. OFFICE Records

Personnel monitoring, receipt and transfer, and disposal records were available and

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adequate for this type of program.

VI Compliance with Regulations and Conditions of License

No non-compliance conditions were observed during this visit.

OFFICE ▶	Isotopes					
SURNAME ▶	Hervin/bab					
DATE ▶	10-22-56					

5/4/56

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Institution: **Veterans Administration Hospital**
Wilshire & Sawtelle Boulevards
Address: **Los Angeles 25, California**

Category: **Hospital**
RSB Representative: **REC & RLH**
Date of Visit: **10/3/56**

Type of License	Pre-licensing	Reviewed by:
Limited _____ X	First _____	RSB _____
Broad _____	Repeat _____	Licensing _____
Comprehensive _____	Post-licensing _____	
General _____	First _____	
	Repeat _____ X	
	Special _____	

Conditions: Satisfactory; Marginal; Unsatisfactory; Not Applicable (**S, M, U, NA**)

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| I. <u>S</u> Administrative Control | IV. <u>S</u> Personnel Monitoring |
| II. <u>S</u> Material Licensed | <u>S</u> Radiation Survey Procedures |
| <u>S</u> Disposal | <u>S</u> Controlled Areas |
| III. <u>S</u> Lab Facilities | <u>S</u> Non-controlled areas |
| <u>S</u> Shielding | <u>S</u> Radiation Signs |
| <u>S</u> Equipment | V. <u>S</u> Records |
| <u>S</u> Instrumentation | VI. <u>S</u> Regulations |
| | VII. <u>S</u> Terms and Conditions |

Critical Evaluations: (Summary of over-all program, discussion of specific marginal and unsatisfactory conditions with recommendations for corrective action.)

The new licensing procedures were discussed with Dr. Blahd and he indicated that he thought that the new licensing procedure would cut out much of the extraneous paper work that was so obvious in previous authorizations. We discussed his entire program to see if he was properly covered under our present licensing procedures. The use of Chromium 51 was not covered and it was requested that he submit an application to cover the Chromium 51.

The animal laboratories at this facility were not visited due to a lack of time. The animal laboratories are primarily under the supervision of Mr. Drell, Ph.d., and Mr. Boran, DVM, with the assistance of the radiological safety officer, Dr. Blahd. Both field representatives were well impressed with the program and the progress the institution has made in the past year. Their facilities are adequate for their type of program. The possibility of a broad medical license for this facility should be re-evaluated and possibly recommended at the time of the next RSB visit.

no Revisit is Recommended: (When)

none Letter of Recommendation Sent to:
(Date)

Letter of Compliance Received From:
(Date)