

1570/1983
2.6.83THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
THE JOHN CURTIN SCHOOL OF MEDICAL RESEARCHRADIOISOTOPES COMMITTEEANNUAL REPORT 1982-83

Members: Dr I.A. Hendry (Convenor)
Professor G.L. Ada
Dr W.M. Burch
Dr M.A. Denborough
Dr C.R. Parish
Dr H. Rosenberg

Radiation Safety Supervisor: Mrs M. Sneddon

Radioisotope Suite Supervisor: Mrs J. Champion

The Committee met once during the year, on 9 June 1982 and the proceedings of the meeting have been reported to Faculty Board.

For the past year Mrs Margaret Sneddon has served as Radiation Safety Supervisor and the committee is grateful to her for continuing in this role. Mr Charles Claudianos was sent to the Lucas Heights course in Radiation Safety and will act as joint Radiation Safety Supervisor with Mrs Sneddon from 1 August 1983.

The radioisotope suite has been used for experiments on radioactive animals and for other experiments where the level of isotope used is greater than desired in the normal low level laboratories. Mrs Joyce Champion has undertaken the control of the suite as Isotope Suite Supervisor and the Committee would like to thank her for ensuring the smooth running of this School service. A small spill of Iodine occurred during the year which was cleaned correctly under the supervision of the Radiation Safety Supervisor.

Radioactive waste is being disposed of, either by burning at the Health Commission incinerator at Mitchell, or solid material is buried in the specially allocated area of the West Belconnen waste disposal area. A detailed circular relating to the correct method of disposal of all types of radioactive waste has been circulated to all users of radioactivity in the School and additional copies are available from HTOs or the Radiation Safety Supervisor. All users of radioisotopes are urged to make sure that the correct method of disposal is being used and, if there is any doubt at all, a member of the committee should be consulted. New guidelines have been issued by the Capital Territory Health Commission and these will be incorporated in the new edition of the Safety Booklet in a simpler form than the present edition.

The school has made a considerable saving on ^{125}I by a bulk purchase plan organised by Dr Banyard and the committee is grateful to him for arranging this.

The Royal Canberra Hospital has continued monitoring ^{125}I and ^{131}I in thyroid tissue for the School. Users of radioactive iodine are able to make an appointment with the Department of Nuclear Medicine for routine thyroid monitoring. No abnormally high readings have been observed this year.

The Purchasing Department has continued to administer the radiation safety badges and the committee would like to thank them for this continuing service. All badges have been below permissible limits and any elevated readings have been reported to the Head of the Department to enable a check to be made on possible poor laboratory techniques of these workers.

I.A. Hendry
Convenor

Summary of Radioactivity purchased in the year ending June 1983

<u>Nuclides</u>	<u>Activity purchased mCi</u>
^{51}Cr	1110
^3H	575.335
^{32}P	202.005
^{125}I	58.5
^{131}I	2
^{35}S	15
^{14}C	3.326
^{45}Ca	2
^{59}Fe	.25
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	1968

Summary of Radioactivity purchased over the last five years

<u>Year ending 1 June</u>	<u>mCi purchased</u>
1979	1956
1980	1758
1981	2007
1982	1182
1983	1968

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I.A. Hendry
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