

10/26/77

Dr. Stanley Gross

Dear Stan:

I am writing at this time to make sure of two matters which are of immediate importance in connection with the end of your task of putting together the data of my investigation of a series of subjects in relation to the metabolism of lead by man under ordinary conditions, as well as under conditions of the administration of lead to them orally and by inhalation.

First, let me say that your report is not one which can be issued as a full representation of the facts established by the data, and therefore I shall have to see to it that the necessary work which is yet to be done to achieve that result, is done. I expect to spend some weeks (or months if needed) on it to make sure that I contribute what I can to that end. For example, I have been putting together the development of the original and the purpose, the methodology employed, and results obtained, and their meaning. I am quite sure that no one but myself can do this and that I cannot authorize you or anyone else to speak for me on these matters.

This being the case, I wish you to make no further statements on this subject to anyone, least of all to any governmental authorities, and to return to me, any or all documents of any kind which are the property of the laboratory. For example, the medical records of the subjects, with the exceptions of part of them (perhaps all) for [REDACTED] have disappeared. Dr. Lerner (the last of the physicians responsible to me for this part of the task) took them out of his files when he moved over to another building in the Medical Center and left them somewhere in Kettering Laboratory in the belief that they should not be removed. I cannot find them now. I shall take the necessary steps to find them if they still exist, for they are an important part of the original data. What I am trying to do is to assemble all of the original data, including punched cards etc, so that all of these data can be securely preserved.

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I especially wish you to refrain from making any statements that you represent me, Kettering Laboratory, or Ethyl Corporation in speaking as to the significance of this general investigation. If you express your opinions (and I think you should not) you must make clear that you speak only for yourself, and that you are not authorized otherwise.

I don't want to be too rigid or at all unkind about this but it must be remembered that this long experimental program has been the largest job of my life and that I do not authorize anyone to speak for me about it. What you have done previously in this relationship is done and cannot be undone, but there is to be no more of such performances. Such credit as you well deserve will ^{accrue} ~~accure~~ to you when this work is published but is not to be exacted otherwise.

This has turned out to be a more lengthy letter than I intended , but it must not be a lengthened further unduly.

I wish to express my thanks to you for your efforts in this matter and also for sending me promptly the latest copy.

From here on this is my problem.

Incidentally, I promised to reimburse you for any further expenses and I am prepared to do this promptly on receipt of your statement.

This letter does not mean (unless you should wish it) that we should not have further discussions of various matters related to it. I simply wish you to know that I believe you have done your part now and that the balance, whatever it is to be, is up to me.

Cordially

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