

from the

Laboratory Program

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE  
BUREAU OF DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL  
NATIONAL COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTER  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30333

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CURRENT ITEM #159

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROVISIONAL NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
ON CLINICAL LABORATORY STANDARDS**

The following is a news release on the Provisional National Committee on Clinical Laboratory Standards which was prepared by the group's Steering Committee following the first meeting of the group which was held in Miami.

"On October 21, 1967 in Miami, Florida, thirty-six representatives of nineteen scientific and professional groups and governmental agencies met, at the invitation of the College of American Pathologists, to consider the formation of a national committee on clinical laboratory standards. The groups represented the disciplines of clinical chemistry, pathology, several specialties of clinical medicine, microbiology, hematology and immunohematology, agencies of the Public Health Services, the National Research Council and the National Bureau of Standards.

"The conferees agreed to the need for a committee and formed the Provisional National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards composed of the groups represented. Doctor Russell Eilers, Chairman of the Standards Committee of the College of American Pathologists who was acting as moderator, was elected temporary chairman, and Doctor Ralph Thiers, American Chemical Society representative, was elected temporary secretary.

"Initial consideration will be given to standards and reagents used in clinical laboratories. The conferees agreed to exclude from current consideration the problems of certification, accreditation, proficiency testing, and standardization of methods.

"Preliminary consideration was given to the possible functions of the committee. The following functions were suggested: define problems relating to standards and reagents and expedite their solution, formulate and promulgate standards, record activities on national and international levels and communicate these to interested organizations, identify methods and instruments used in the evaluation of standards, be available as an advisory group for the improvement of standards in clinical laboratories and serve as a mechanism to achieve consensus on standards.

"A steering committee was elected to explore and recommend to the entire committee an organizational structure and relationship to an impartial national organization, with a capacity to deal with international groups, to bring about the involvement of professional, industrial and governmental organizations in the improvement of clinical laboratory standards. It was also directed to develop a recommended plan for action and to report to the entire committee at its next meeting in April 1968. The steering committee is composed of the temporary chairman and secretary representing the disciplines of pathology and chemistry respectively, and Doctor Howard Bodily representing the discipline of microbiology, Doctor Marion Brooke representing governmental agencies, and Doctor Eugene Flipse representing the specialties of clinical medicine.

"It is recognized that some organizations having an interest in clinical laboratory standards may not have been invited to the first meeting. A mechanism is being developed to allow industry and all national organizations having such an interest to become involved.

"Requests for information should be directed to Doctor Ralph Thiers, Duke University Medical Center, Post Office Box 3015, Durham, North Carolina 27706."

The Association of State and Territorial Public Health Laboratory Directors was invited to have representation but was unable to have someone present. Dr. Howard Bodily represented the American Academy of Microbiology and Drs. M. M. Brooke and Joseph Boutwell represented NCDC.

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