

Dr. Nestor brought out the fact again that there were no studies on the eyes of the monkeys on MER 29 and these tissues had not been examined nor had the eyes been preserved. In connection with this, Dr. Nestor pointed out the great significance we had attached to these monkey studies in connection with approving the NDA for MER 29. Dr. Nestor pointed out that our Division of Pharmacology had made an issue of the Pathology in rats and dogs, and the William S. Merrell Co. representatives had countered by pointing out that monkeys were of a higher order and, therefore, closer to man, and that their monkey studies had not demonstrated any pathology and that this was, therefore, a very strong argument for making their NDA effective. Dr. Nestor further pointed out that had the Food and Drug Administration known of these discrepancies in the monkey studies, it was conceivable that the NDA would never have been made effective.

Dr. Nestor stated that we desired to make some further checks on raw data of the monkeys, and in particular we desired to review any data they had in regards to the feeding of the monkeys. Dr. Nestor stated that in particular, we were interested in any notes which could be located which would bear upon any abnormalities observed in connection with monkey #F49 which had lost so much weight during the final month of the studies. Dr. Nestor stated that we were interested particularly in any notes regarding the monkeys appetite, activities, and any evidence of illness.

At this point, Mr. Beckwith arranged for us to interview Dr. King again in his office, and asked that we return and see him prior to leaving the firm.

We then proceeded to Dr. King's office with Dr. Murray, and Dr. Van Maanen. Dr. King was then interviewed and he was asked whether or not he had been able to account for the discrepancies which we had observed the previous day. Dr. King stated that up to this point, he has not been able to explain any of these discrepancies.

At this point, we again checked the data on monkey #F49 to be sure that there was no misunderstanding on our part concerning the duration of the experiment, the weight loss, and the dates. We found our previous understanding to be completely correct, and although Dr. King attempted to convince us that there had been an error on projecting the data onto the charts and that the loss of weight was small, he finally had to admit that our figures were correct, in that monkey F49 had lost 2.4 kg. during the last 5 weeks of the study.

Dr. King then recalled that monkey F49 had lost considerable weight toward the end of the experiment and that he would attempt to find some notes to explain what happened.

Dr. King was asked for any records or notes he might have of observations concerning the feeding of the monkeys on this MER 29 experiment. Dr. King said that he could not recollect whether or not they had any such records, but he had a hazy memory that there was something. He said that up to this point, he had not been able to locate any such records, but that he would continue searching for such. Dr. King said that it was very difficult to keep an actual record of food consumed because the monkey threw the food around a great deal, making calculation of food consumed very difficult. Dr. Nestor asked Dr. King the name of the employee who had secured the charts for us yesterday. Dr. King said that this was one of his assistants and his name was Fred Holthaus. Mr. Holthaus came in briefly during this interview. Mr. Holthaus said that he had been employed by the firm during the time the MER 29 studies were being conducted, but he was in a different department, and knew nothing of the studies himself. He said he had been working with Dr. King since June of 1959.

Dr. Nestor then asked Dr. King as to the whereabouts of Jo Jordan and B. Umberger whose names appeared at the bottom of the raw data charts in the bound notebooks. Dr. King said that he had heard nothing from Jo Jordan for sometime and did not know her whereabouts, but B. Umberger had left the firm to attend Ohio State University at Columbus, Ohio. He said neither of these employees were with the firm at this time.

Also, we inquired as to Mr. J. K. Smith whose name appeared at the top of the raw data charts in the bound notebooks. Dr. King stated that Mr. Smith was his predecessor. He said that Mr. Smith left the firm in June, 1959. He said Mr. Smith is now with Riker Laboratories in North Ridge, California. Dr. King stated that he joined the firm in September of 1958 and was definitely in charge of the MER 29 studies at the close of the experiment. He admitted that he personally had conducted all of the autopsies.