

Dr. MIDER. I like to think I represent the friendly front office, and we hope it is friendly. We have an open door and any laboratory director or any of his people can come in and question us and find out why we made a particular decision and perhaps get it reversed.

The laboratory directors who take responsibility for about 500 or 600 people, as opposed to 2,000 in some of the physical science labs, have a very close meshing with the people at the NIH who are going to make decisions.

Dr. Jacobs and Dr. Eberhart have been scientific directors. We meet twice a month and discuss the problems of the NIH, try to improve the environment, and try to understand each other so that decisions that are made are responsive to the needs of the individual scientists.

Mr. DADDARIO. You are able to do it because you are working closely with each other. You can do it face to face or by phone, and as you begin taking this down strata by strata in your activities, your people have this same opportunity. They are able to get together and talk, and this in turn generates new ideas.

Dr. MIDER. That is right.

Dr. JACOBS. Every week we put out at NIH a calendar of events giving all of the seminars that will be conducted, the meetings, throughout the Institutes. This intermixing of disciplines which occurs because people see interesting items for discussion in a particular field, has led to an enormous interinstitute collaboration, too sponsored and generated by the scientists themselves, which helps in creating and maintaining a very stimulating environment for the scientists working there.

Mr. DADDARIO. You showed some enthusiasm about the fact that you are there in that area. Are you indicating that we ought to look at that and perhaps bring some of these laboratories closer together in order to create more efficiency and the better use of the people?

Dr. MIDER. I think there might be some opportunities to do that.

I think it more important, Mr. Chairman, that science should contribute to education and to social goals, and I would hope that we would form closer links with the academic world and for that matter with industry, if it is in the public interest to do so.

In addition to our situation there is an excellent group in Flagstaff, Ariz., part of the Department of Commerce, that works extremely well.

There is another one in Boulder, Colo., part of the Bureau of Standards that works with the University of Colorado.

We have several offsite groups. We have a laboratory at Hamilton, Mont. It was formed in the early twenties. The Public Health Service took over an establishment and program that had been mounted by the State of Montana to make the Bitter Root Valley safe to live in. This is pretty good land and they had a disease known as Rocky Mountain spotted fever. The offending organism turned out to be a rickettsia which was found to be carried by ticks and within 10 years after the Public Health Service took over this Laboratory a vaccine to immunize people against the disease was made which with refinement is still in use today among the people who work in areas where they are particularly likely to be bitten by ticks.