

## MEMORANDUM

9 February 2001

To: Professor Kenan Unlu

From: Professor Francis A. Kallfelz

Subject: Ward Center for Nuclear Sciences

I have read with interest the "Review of Ward Center" prepared by the LAC to the Vice-Provost for Research. There is no doubt that the LAC spent a very considerable amount of time and effort on this report and are to be commended for their thoroughness. However, perhaps due to the enormity of information reviewed, in my view they, perhaps, neglected to give appropriate emphasis to part of that information. I will mention only two matters.

The first is the potential future of neutron capture therapy (BNCT) at the Ward Center. In the section on "Process" the report states "While boron neutron capture therapy has received some considerable attention nationally....at this point it apparently is not currently being actively pursued elsewhere...." And in the section on "Faculty and Administration Input Through Interviews" the report states "...because of the absence of a local medical school and possible scientific uncertainties, neutron capture therapy is ....unlikely to be successful at Cornell." While it may be true that BNCT is not being actively pursued nationally, it is being pursued internationally with current active programs underway in Finland and Japan. Further, the literature on this modality states that the Triga Reactor may be ideally suited for such research.

Secondly, while there is no medical school on campus in Ithaca, there is one at a sister state supported medical school, The NYS Health Science Center at Syracuse, which is within an hour's drive to the Ward Center. Further we do have a College of Veterinary Medicine on campus. This College has recently initiated a major new program in Comparative Oncology and considerable opportunity exists for collaborative efforts with the Ward Center in the development of BNCT for the treatment of tumors in animals, perhaps leading to the development of viable treatment modalities for human beings.

The second point I would like to mention is listed as #5 under "Findings" viz. "The cost of continuing the operation of the Ward Center was clearly a major motivation for the....LAC review" and "the cost to the central administration to operate the Ward Center is currently approximately \$200,000.00 per year...." Given the annual budget of the University, a cost of \$200K to support a facility of the size and scope of the Ward Center is negligible. Also, the recent report of activities of the Center indicates a very significant increase in external funding, both from governmental and private sources, during the past two years. Further, recent governmental initiatives from the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, DOE, portend a probable significant increase in governmental support within the next one or two years. This combined with, perhaps,

a reasonable charge for services to current users of the reactor should easily completely eliminate the need for continued support of the Ward Center from the Central Administration.

In closing I will mention the LACs comment regarding the failure of the Ward Center to reach the goal stated in A Plan for the Future Operations of Ward Laboratory, Cornell University of eliminating the need for central financial support within two years. This goal was written two years before the arrival of the current director of the Ward Center, Dr. Kenan Unlu. During his two years as director, the funding for the Center has increased dramatically and I am confident that above mentioned elimination of the need for central administrative support will occur in the very near future.