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**Memorandum**

DATE: June 22, 1978  
 TO: ACMD for Professional Services (111)  
 FROM: Director, Pathology Service (113)  
 SUBJ: Recommendation on Examination of Tissue for Dioxin

1. In accordance with your request of June 13, 1978, we have ascertained the following information on dioxin analyses (100-200 analyses) on tissue.

2. We recommend that the initial analyses for dioxin (up to 100-200 samples) be sent out of the system to either:

a) Dr. Michael Lawrence Gross  
 Professor  
 Department of Chemistry  
 University of Nebraska  
 Lincoln, Nebraska 68588

b) Dr. Thomas Tiernan  
 Professor of Chemistry  
 Brehm Laboratories  
 Department of Chemistry  
 Wright State University  
 Dayton, Ohio 45431

The costs at each source are approximately the same. Dr. Gross charges \$400-800 per sample according to the amount of purification required and the size of the batch with which he is working. Dr. Tiernan gives an average cost of \$600-700 based on the same factors. An analysis takes about 2 days to perform. Both Dr. Gross and Dr. Tiernan have experience with these analyses but Dr. Gross appears to have the greater experience and expertise. Both Dr. Gross and Dr. Tiernan would be willing to do a few random analyses but prefer to have a firm request for a guaranteed basic number of analyses per year-such as 50 or 100. This would assure them funds to employ the necessary personnel. With a firm agreement for about 100 analyses per year, the volume could be increased substantially with relative ease and the unit costs would decrease.



3. We have also made several inquiries at VA health care facilities with mass spectrometry equipment. From these inquiries, we have learned that the Laboratory Service at the VA Hospital, San Diego, California would be willing to perform dioxin analyses. The San Diego hospital estimates annual operating costs of \$80,000 to include three additional staff (One GS-12, one GS-10 and one GS-7) to perform 100 to several hundred analyses per year. On this basis, the costs would be approximately the same as would be incurred by referring specimens to Dr. Gross or Dr. Tiernan. However, there would be a delay in starting analyses and the San Diego group has no experience with these determinations. Furthermore, we would be creating a special service to meet an unpredictable workload.

4. On the basis of the information we have obtained, we recommend that VA specimens be referred at least to begin with to Dr. Gross. Dr. Schepers and the Herbicide Steering Committee at the meeting on June 19, 1978 accepted provisionally this recommendation. There will be more discussions at the next Committee meeting on June 26, 1978.

*Marjorie J. Williams*  
MARJORIE J. WILLIAMS, M.D.