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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
UGDP, Baltimore, Maryland, May 28, 1969

Present were: Drs. Klimt, Meinert, Knatterud, Miller, Knowles, Osborne, Prout and Schwartz.

The data concerning the relative efficacy of placebo, tolbutamide insulin-standard and insulin-variable treatments on total causes of cardiovascular deaths and a variety of non-fatal end-points was reviewed by Dr. Meinert. It was reported to the Executive Group that it was the view of Dr. Brown, a statistical consultant that there was evidence of toxicity with tolbutamide therapy. Dr. Cornfield, another statistical consultant was said to at least partially concur. All agreed that there was no evidence whatsoever of a salutory effect from tolbutamide as compared to placebo or other forms of therapy. The Executive Committee recommended the immediate termination of tolbutamide therapy and that patients presently taking tolbutamide be switched to placebo therapy.

Dr. Knatterud reviewed the data comparing phenformin with other treatment groups and her findings were essentially similar to those reported for tolbutamide except that the case was somewhat weaker since (1) the placebo group is smaller in the phenformin series, and (2) the patients have been followed for roughly 18 months less time. Dr. Cornfield felt that perhaps continued phenformin therapy for one year and re-examination would be warranted. Dr. Brown felt that phenformin therapy should be terminated promptly. The Executive Committee tentatively recommended that phenformin be continued for one year and the data re-examined.

It was also recommended that a paper on the tolbutamide effects be prepared and published promptly, as a companion to the baseline monograph. The question arose regarding the preparation of statistically accurate predictions for the tolbutamide and phenformin studies as to when a beneficial or definitely detrimental effect might be expected and how severe the disparate changes between groups would be required to obtain such effects. (It was decided that these would be required to obtain such effects.)? It was decided that these would be presented at the Williamsburg meeting on June 5, 1969. It was also recommended that further analysis of the phenformin studies be completed taking into account the impact of the small placebo group.

While there was general unanimity regarding the recommendations noted above, all agreed that final decision would await (1) the availability of predictive data, and (2) a full discussion of the implications of this decision at the meeting of the Principal Investigators in Williamsburg.

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It was recommended that the next meeting of Principal Investigators will take place on November 6-7, 1969 in Baltimore, with the Johns Hopkins Group, headed by Dr. Thad Prout, serving as host.

Respectfully submitted,

Theodore B. Schwartz

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