

From: Sir Charles Ellis, U.S.

26th January 1971

Dr. M. Harbot,
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I was very interested in your letter of January 12th. and delighted that you have put in so much work on surfactants.

I like your analyses of the project into three areas and believe that you are right to commence by studying a model system. I hope you will find it possible to start up these experiments listed under (1).

I do not believe however that I appreciate properly the thought in the last paragraph of your letter. I should have thought you were as well placed as anyone to obtain, for example, "fresh minced lung tissue". Why not have a word with Hogg, I am sure he would help you. Whether you bring the tissue to your apparatus, or arrange to set up the surface tension apparatus in some hospital is a practical detail to settle on the spot. But it seems clear to me that whoever does the first model experiment should do the second and with the same apparatus. The decision how to run stage (3) will presumably be largely influenced by your experience with stage (2).

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20th January 1971

When Hong was over here I had a discussion with him on surfactants and the effect smoke had on their properties and I found him uninterested. I don't think this was a considered judgment on the importance of the interaction of smoke constituents with the alveolar covering, but rather that in the context of his own experiments on the dynamics of the lung as a machine he thought enough was known about the part played by the alveolar lining.

I should very much appreciate being kept in contact with your experiments - and with your speculations.

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