

NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY
Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.

16 October 1944

Dr. J. W. Woodrow
Head of Physics Dept.
Iowa State College
Ames, Iowa.

Dear Doctor Woodrow,

I was very glad to get your letter of October 10. I will answer it before it escapes my mind. I too, feel strongly about our postwar work at Iowa State College, and I feel that now is the time to lay the necessary ground work so that our fields of activities will be both proper and profitable.

In the first place, I feel that the whole field of biophysics should be emphasized. At our insistence, this will certainly require at least three men properly distributed among the various phases of this work. In this connection, I believe that the Physics Department should be in position to act, to a degree, as a service department to the various biological departments which often require physical work. Certainly we should maintain electronic, spectographic and photographic services for their use, and probably there will be other regions of activity of this type. It seems quite clear to me, also, that the Physics Department will have to develop its own work in electronics, since its problems and emphasis will be somewhat different than those encountered by the fields of communications and electrical engineering.

For these positions I have several men in mind, but at the moment, I am inclined to recommend only one man in the field of biophysics. I have forgotten his name, but I must have it in my file, although I cannot seem to find it. However, he is now teaching biophysics at the University of Missouri and he is well known to Doctor Workman who can give you his name from this description. I have had several visits with him and have visited his laboratory, and talked at some length with him. I am convinced that he is a man of first rate caliber. This recommendation should not, I hope, preclude further thorough investigation of his qualifications.

Very sincerely yours,

J. V. Atanasoff