

WORCESTER FOUNDATION FOR
EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY, INC.
222 MAPLE AVENUE
SHREWSBURY, MASS. 01545

File w/ Nelson

PATENT BRANCH, OGC
DHEW

MAR 6 1978

March 3, 1978

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Carter:

I have had the opportunity to see a copy of a letter addressed to you by Senator Russell Long dealing with patent matters and dated January 13, 1978.

As written to Senator Gaylord Nelson on December 17, 1977, we would very much like to express our opposition to any blanket proposal having the government retain all rights regarding patentable ideas, processes, materials or uses when the government has supported - through the use of taxpayers' funds - an investigator and/or his/her research project. We believe that such a proposal, if implemented, would seriously impede the transfer of the fruits of research to the marketplace and to the public, and would deny the investigator and/or his institution the intellectual property he/she is entitled to. As an institution with a duly executed patent agreement with the United States, we recommend wider use of this instrument, the institutional patent agreement, to eliminate abuses - should they exist -.

We would like to take this opportunity to commend your Administration's farsightedness in publicly recognizing that the solution to today's problems can only come through new knowledge through basic research. It is disheartening however to find that the recognition above mentioned did not find its expression in the budget request for the NIH: during FY 1979 the number of awards for competing investigator-initiated grants (the life-blood in the acquisition of new knowledge) is projected to be only 3,297, down from 4,827 in FY 1978.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

Federico Welsch, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Russell B. Long
Gaylord Nelson

bcc: Senators Edward W. Brooke and Edward M. Kennedy, Representative Joseph P. Moynihan, Mr. Norman Latker, Dr. Mahlon Hoagland, and Dr. Marcel Gut