

NJL

Cardiovascular Engineering Laboratories
6535 Fannin B201
BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77025

CORA AND WEBB MADING DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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(713) 790-3251

August 5, 1976

PATENT BRANCH, OGC
DHEW

AUG 11 1976

Mr. Norman J. Latker, Patent Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D. C. 20201

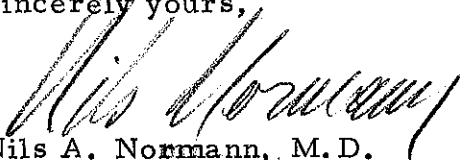
Dear Mr. Latker:

Having recently initiated the submission of three Disclosures and Petitions to your Office, I have increasingly become concerned about the general problem of assimilation of new technology into bio-medicine. Since inventions and patents, evolving from Federal funding, are highly relevant to this problem, I venture addressing this inquiry to you and your Office.

The overall aim of Federal policy, as stated in the Petition Outline, is clear: to ensure that an invention be "adequately and quickly developed for widest use". What is not clear to me are the mechanisms by which this may be achieved in practice. Working in an academic, medical environment, I am greatly interested in the fate of disclosures and particularly in the extent to which Government agencies can facilitate the development of a given invention, intra- or extra-murally.

It appears to me that much time may be lost unnecessarily in the development process. If there are optional, facilitating avenues which we can utilize, I would be most grateful for an orientation and your guidance.

Sincerely yours,


Nils A. Normann, M. D.

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