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Dr. Norman J. Latker  
Office of General Council  
Department of Health, Education and Welfare  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Norm:

I thoroughly enjoyed your presentation at the SUPA Meeting in Chicago. I completely agree with your approach to the patent problems at Universities and hope that your ideas will prevail in government policy.

In 1973, when I was a member of the NSF Advisory Committee for Planning and Institutional Affairs, I proposed a plan for direct agency support for technology transfer. I may have sent you a copy of this proposal at that time but if not I enclose one for your information. The Committee discussed this plan but it was disbanded before a decision was reached on whether or not to submit it to the National Science Board.

The NSF has not shown any further interest in this proposal but I still believe it has some merits although some modifications are probably in order. The basic concepts of the plan are that (1) there be a firm agreement that each research proposal shall contain a line item for technology transfer, (2) that the university should match funds probably on a 50% basis, (3) that there be a separate account for support funds and royalties, and (4) that federal support should end when the program becomes self-supporting.

I would like to have your comments on this plan and whether you see any way that it might be put in effect with one or more federal agencies.

Sincerely yours,

  
Olaf P. Bergelin  
Coordinator of Research

OPB/p

Enclosure

*copy to Harrison 3/2/76  
(letter + encl.)*