

RESEARCH CORPORATION

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August 19, 1976

Dr. Donald S. Frederickson, Director
National Institutes of Health
900 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20010

Re : Unsolicited Proposal entitled "Program to Enhance
Transfer of Research Results of DHEW Grantees at
Educational Institutions

Dear Dr. Frederickson:

Over the past several years the general public has become interested in the benefits that can be expected from the support of research in the biomedical area. Reflecting this concern, on December 10, 1974, the Senate Appropriations Committee Conference Report instructed the Director of the National Institutes of Health to develop a specific course of action to improve the dissemination of research findings resulting from NIH sponsored programs. More recently the Chairman of the Senate Health Subcommittee, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, has initiated a scheduled year-long review and examination of public policy in the areas of biomedical research. It now appears that public support of biomedical research can no longer be taken for granted. The public wants and needs to know what new and/or improved pharmaceutical drugs, therapeutic measures, devices and diagnostic techniques have resulted from its support of such research. Current discussions seem to be concerned primarily with the nature of the research that is undertaken. A concern, secondary only in terms of chronology, relates to the means of transferring the completed research results into a public benefit. The latter issue is the basis for this letter and the unsolicited proposal it encloses.

Research Corporation is a not-for-profit foundation originally chartered by the State of New York in 1912 for two major purposes. These purposes are:

1. To receive and acquire inventions and to make the same more available and effective in the useful arts, and
2. To provide means for the advancement of scientific investigation by contributing the net earnings of the foundation to scientific and educational institutions.

The Patent Program of Research Corporation through invention administration agreements with over 280 colleges, universities and scientific research institutions assists the institutional researchers in the transfer of their research results, much of which is supported by NIH, into public use through a program of patenting and licensing. Typically of about 500 invention disclosures evaluated, about 10% are accepted for administration annually.

The Grants Program of Research Corporation distributes the entire net earnings of the foundation as grants-in-aid to universities, colleges and scientific institutions for the support of basic scientific research and practical programs in public health nutrition. Since the inception of these programs some \$50,000,000 has been awarded to hundreds of institutions and well over 4,000 scientists.

Since July 1974, Research Corporation has been engaged in developing techniques for enhancing patent awareness at eight major educational institutions funded jointly by the National Science Foundation and the Experimental Technology Incentive Program of the National Bureau of Standards. The results to date have been most encouraging in general, but have shown the format of the program which is effective in most academic departments is not as effective in medically and pharmacologically oriented departments. There seems to be an additional resistance by faculty researchers in these departments to the use of the patent system for transferring research results for use by the general public.

We have experimented with variations in our basic techniques and believe that we may have some concepts which will overcome the perceived resistances. We would like to try out these concepts in other institutions which have major support from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, particularly from the National Institutes of Health.

We have discussed this matter with our current sponsors, especially Drs. Jordan Lewis and Richard Penn at ETIP and Dr. Robert Cutler at NSF, as well as with Mr. Norman Latker, NIH Patent Counsel. Each adviser has given us encouragement to develop a proposal for submission to your office for funding to test these concepts. I should emphasize that this work is not contemplated to be just another study designed to produce recommendations for further action, but a working program having as its objective the actual surfacing and processing in the best manner possible those inventions and new ideas which should be put to use for the benefit of the general public in the shortest time possible. In conjunction with the administration at the institutions we would expect to develop mechanisms for doing this on a continuing basis after the program is ended, so that the program would have a long range positive effect.

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Accordingly, we are submitting herewith an unsolicited proposal for mounting such a program at ten institutions selected from a list of 21 potentially receptive institutions having substantial DHEW funding. The proposal contemplates a comprehensive, intensive effort over a three-year period and is estimated to cost \$326,446. Our suggested starting date is October 1, 1976.

Your interest and careful study of this proposal is hereby requested. We would be more than pleased to visit with you to discuss any unclear details or to expand on the presentation, and we would welcome your discussing our present program with either NSF or ETIP, or any of the eight institutions where we have been working over the past two years.

We sincerely hope that your study will lead you to recommend acceptance and funding of the proposed work.

Sincerely yours,

Willard Marcy
Willard Marcy

WM:kp
Enclosures

use of a patent system for training new scientists