

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 Constitution Avenue

Washington, D. C.

January 16, 1945

Part of 475

Dear Commander Gushing:

I herewith transmit the triplicates of three identical proposals for contract in research for a study of chemical and chemotherapeutic prophylaxis of gonorrhoea in human volunteers. Each of these proposals was received by the Committee on Medicine from the Subcommittee on Venereal Diseases with a rating of "A". The Committee on Medicine has also rated these proposals "A" and I have so marked the rating slips.

This letter is added merely for the purpose of drawing attention to the opinions expressed in the attached letters to me from members of the Committee on Medicine. I would like these letters forwarded to the Committee on Medical Research with the proposals, with especial attention being drawn to the opinion expressed by Dr. Paullin.

Yours sincerely,

G. H. Perry Pepper, Chairman  
Committee on Medicine

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D. C.

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

Committee on Medicine

Atlanta, Georgia, January 13, 1943

Dr. G. H. Perry Pepper,  
36th and Spruce Streets,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Pepper:-

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your communications of January 8 in which there is inclosed from the Subcommittee on Venereal Diseases a project from the Gonococcus Research Unit, Department of Health, City of New York concerning the chemical and chemotherapeutic prophylaxis of gonorrhoea induced in human volunteers. The project as I see it as submitted by Dr. Cohn is a very worthwhile thing to do and I think from the standpoint of furnishing medical information in controlling gonorrhoeal infection it would be most worthwhile. For this reason I would vote A on this project.

On the other hand I must take this opportunity of reminding the Committee on Medicine that if such a proposal is recommended and if such is accepted, that sooner or later information concerning this method of experimentation is going to become known to the public and sooner or later someone of these individuals who has offered himself for the purpose of this experimental research is going to fall in the hands of a very unscrupulous lawyer and this in turn may serve not only to embarrass the National Research Council but may tend to destroy a great deal of its usefulness and make it an object of severe criticism.

I have read with a great deal of interest the legal forms which you have drawn up and which are to be signed by the men who submit to the experimental inoculation. On the other hand he can always say he did not understand fully what was being done. Therefore, for the good of the Council and the protection of the Committee on Medicine, unless we can be absolutely assured that there will be no kick back, I vote to reject the project.

I am also in receipt of your proposal from Dr. G. Phillip Miller, University of Chicago, concerning the same project. My comments concerning this are identically the same.

Sincerely,

(s) James E. Paullin

ROGER I. LEE, M. D.

284 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass.

January 11, 1945

Dear Perry:

I am glad to vote "A" on the proposal of Dr. Cohn and I am glad to accept the Vote "A" on the two other identical proposals.

As I tried to indicate in the discussion, the only thing that really bothers me is, if, by any curious chance, these experiments were to be carried out only in one state which had a bad repute, whether justified or not, in the handling of its prisoners. That objection is obviated by beginning with the State of New York and by the inclusion of three states in the program. I believe, however, that the situation ought to be watched in order to prevent such a contingency as I have outlined.

Yours,

(S) Roger I. Lee

STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

January 11, 1945

Dr. G. H. Perry Pepper  
University Hospital  
50th and Spruce Streets  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Pepper:

I have read the outline of Dr. Cohn's project with great care and it seems to me that it would be extremely desirable to carry out this research. I should like to approve it with a rating of "A", and am also willing to do the same for the two associated projects.

The only point about which there could be any question is what one might call the public relations side, but I assume that has been carefully considered and that the conclusion has been reached that there would be no criticism from that standpoint.

Sincerely yours,

(S) Arthur L. Bloomfield