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Department of the Navy
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
Washington, D.C.

Y-mlp

December 5, 1942

Do not address the signer of this letter, but address reply to Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, Washington, D.C.

and refer to No.
P3-2/P3-(121)

My dear Doctor Weed:

The incidence of gonorrhea in the armed forces and the lost manpower resulting therefrom constitutes a problem of major military importance. New and improved methods for the prevention of gonorrhea are urgently desirable. Unfortunately, adequate experimental studies cannot be carried out in animals, since no known animal species is susceptible to local infection with the gonococcus. Laboratory studies other than in experimental animals do not provide definitive information capable of translation to man. The crucial experiment in the development of new prophylactic agents against gonorrhea lies in the experimental inoculation of human volunteers.

It is hoped that such experimental studies in human beings may be undertaken under the auspices of the National Research Council.

Sincerely yours,

?S? ROSS T. McINTIRE
Rear Admiral (MC)
Surgeon General, U. S. Navy

Dr. Lewis H. Weed, Chairman
Division of Medical Sciences
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL

WASHINGTON

December 4, 1942

Dr. Lewis H. Weed
National Research Council
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Weed:

It is understood a proposal has been made that the National Research Council undertake an investigation in search of an effective prophylaxis and improved treatment for gonorrheal infections, using selected human volunteers.

It is unnecessary to reaffirm the interest of this office in any scientific research the object of which is to reduce the incidence of this social disease, particularly in an armed force. Any progress in this field will have a direct bearing on the conservation of manpower engaged in war work of any character and it is hoped it will be possible for the Council to undertake such an investigation.

Very sincerely yours,

S/ John A. Rogers
Colonel, Medical Corps
Executive Officer

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UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Washington, D.C.
(Bethesda Station)

November 19, 1942.

Dr. Lewis H. Weed
Chairman, Division of Medical Sciences
National Research Council
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Dear Doctor Weed:

I have been informed that Doctor Charles M. Carpenter of the Strong Memorial Hospital of Rochester, New York, is interested in studies of the epidemiology and prophylaxis of gonorrhea and that the plan involves the utilization of human subjects for experimental inoculation by laboratory methods. No laboratory animals are available for this work inasmuch as such animals cannot be successfully inoculated with the gonococcus.

Because of the great prevalence of gonorrhea and its importance in the production of noneffective man-days both in the armed forces and civilian population, I believe that the human inoculation experiments proposed by Doctor Carpenter are justifiable if the human subjects are selected on a voluntary basis. The work should contribute some worthwhile new findings in the epidemiology and prevention of gonorrhea.

Sincerely yours,

S/ Thomas Parran

Surgeon General

Cc: Dr. Moore

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