

NATIONAL ADVISORY HEALTH COUNCIL MEETING

U. S. Public Health Service

March 8 and 9, 1946

The National Advisory Health Council convened at ten o'clock on March 8, Doctor Warren F. Draper, Deputy Surgeon General, presiding. In attendance were Miss Mary Switzer, Assistant to the Administrator of the Federal Security Agency, and all Council members except for Doctors Fred, Reed, and Musser.

I. Dr. Draper explained Dr. Parran's temporary absence from the meeting and went immediately into discussion of the minutes of the meeting of September 28, 1945. These minutes including the two proposals of Dr. Maxcy that were in the nature of revisions, were approved in the form previously circulated to the members.

II. Dr. Dyer reported in connection with developments to date of a national research foundation, that the bill, S 1850, had been offered as a compromise between the proponents of the Magnuson and the Kilgore bills and that it incorporated recommendation of the National Advisory Cancer Council that the work of the foundation shall be regarded as supplementing but not as curtailing the work of existing government agencies.

Interim approval of two Office of Scientific Research and Development projects, circularized by mail, was announced by Dr. Dyer: one for Doctor W. L. Fleming and the other for Dr. W. Overholser. The Council decided that the mail vote should be considered as formal approval.

III. A. Dr. C. J. Van Slyke, Chief of the Research Grants Office, outlined for the Council the nature of his approach when visiting or receiving applicants for grants. He pointed out certain tentative policy answers that he had been giving, pending formal answers of the Council in regard to the questions to be presented during the meeting. The discussion by Dr. Van Slyke was an elaboration and explanation of the Memorandum for Applicants and of the application itself, copies of which were given to the Council members.

In answer to Dr. Fair's request for information regarding funds, Dr. Dyer reported (1) that the \$917,000 available for the period January through June, 1946, included \$100,000 from the regular appropriation bill and \$817,000 from a supplementary bill providing for the transfer of Office of Scientific Research and Development grants; and (2) that \$1,834,000 had been approved by the Bureau of the Budget for fiscal 1947. In this connection Miss Switzer described the need for considering future budget requests, pointing out that if the National Science Foundation is inaugurated, the Public Health Service through the help of the Council.

Discussion by Miss Switzer and the Council in regard to inclusion of "overhead" charges resulted in agreement that war time philosophy should give way to a post war one that implies more cooperation by the universities, preferably that no overhead be charged and that necessary renovations, etc., be specified as such rather than blanketed under "overhead". Resolution was approved that only in unusual circumstances may "working space charge" be allowed and that no reference shall be made to such charges in informational sheets transmitted to applicants.

A subcommittee of Doctors Maxcy, Fair, and Mustard was appointed to phrase a resolution reflecting the National Advisory Health Council views in regard to budget questions raised. The following resolution was adopted: "The National

Advisory Health Council, in recommending a research grant for the Surgeon General's approval, makes such recommendations in the belief that the budget recommended for the investigation contains no items that transfer to the research grant, costs that normally have been or would be borne by the university or institution in which the investigation is to be undertaken. The Surgeon General is therefore requested by the National Advisory Health Council to cause such inquiries as may be needed and take such action as may be indicated either before or after a recommendation of the Council, to make effective the general intent."

Motion was approved that the Council was opposed to setting limitations on the size of grants, on the number of grants made to a university, or on the total in research grant funds that may be paid to any one university in a given fiscal year. Unanimous endorsement was given to getting the best work done, regardless of where it might be.

The Council approved the establishment of Study Sections on a broad basis, indicating specifically that membership on the Sections should be based entirely on the ability of the person to serve a certain purpose, irrespective of whether or not he be a Council member. Resolution was passed also that the Council continue to function as a committee of the whole in passing upon grants referred.

Discussion was held and conclusion reached by the Council that merits of individual cases should determine whether a project grant for research might be made on an annual or long-time basis.

The proposed method of presentation of applications was approved by the Council upon condition that just so soon as possible the Study Sections should be established to give the Council the benefit of the more intensive review afforded under such a plan. It was understood that all applications would be submitted to the Council irrespective of recommendations of Study Sections. It was also agreed that circularization of applications by mail, if needed, would be satisfactory in those cases where a Study Section has reviewed them and prepared recommendations.

Agreement was given by the Council to quarterly meetings and the following tentative calendar was adopted, subject to later necessary revisions: May 10, 11; September 6, 7; December 6, 7; March 7, 8, 1947; and May 16, 17, 1947.

III. B. Action was voted by the Council on the following applications for grants-in-aid for research:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Investigator</u>	<u>Subject</u>
RG-23	Western Reserve	Harold N. Cole	Penicillin in Syphilis
Action:	Increase of \$1,200 approved.		
RG-47	Christ Hospital, Cincinnati	L. H. Schmidt	Chemotherapeutic properties of antimalarial drugs in monkeys infected with <u>Plasmodium cynomolgi</u>

Dr. Maxcy commented on the urgent need for establishing a Malaria Study Section and assurance was given by Dr. Van Slyke that steps had already been taken to do so.
Action: Approved for \$26,000, effective July 1, 1947.

RG-49	Johns Hopkins Univ.	G. P. Richter	Biology of rat poisons and deterrents
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cautioned the Council against too many referrals to Study Sections, pointing out that for this project the consensus seemed to be that the application should be denied but that the whole problem of rat control might be considered later by a Special Study Section with inclusion of a project proposal that Dr. Richter might wish to submit.

Action: Referred for further study.

Number	Grantee	Investigator	Subject
RG-50	Tufts College Med. School	W. Dameshek	"Mediterranean" target-oval cell anemias and related conditions.

Question was raised and conclusion reached that the Council should not limit themselves to what might be called public health problems; that, in fact, there would be no limits in regard to the field of research so long as there was some relation to medicine. It was pointed out that all applications embraced in the broad authority given in Public Law 410 must necessarily be considered by the Council but that, however, priorities should certainly be established as to projects to be stimulated. Proposals for A, B, and C priorities for grants for approved projects were withdrawn because of administrative difficulties involved; and decision reached that the Council would vote "yes" or "no" or refer the application for further study.

Action: Referred for further study.

RG-51	Emory University	A. Heyman	Penicillin treatment of Syphilis
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Action: Approved for \$3,000

RG-52	Columbia University	E. G. Miller	Preparation and immunizing properties of protamine precipitated bacterial toxoids, etc.
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Action: Approved, \$3,100 for 15 months.

RG-55	Univ. of Kansas	Cora Downs	Tularmia
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Action: Approved for \$3,500 with the suggestion that the project proposal be prorated for 15 months.

RG-56	Tulane University	Grace A. Goldsmith	B-group of vitamins in human nutrition
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Determination was reached that decisions in regard to supplementing of salaries and retroactive payments were administrative and not within the legal responsibility of the Council.

Action: Approved for \$24,900

RG-57	New York University	J. M. Steele	Role of lipid metabolism in arteriosclerosis
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Action: Disapproved

RG-58	Univ. of California	H. H. Anderson	Mechanisms involved in anesthesia
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Action: Approved for \$5,850, effective July 1, 1947

RG-59	Washington Univ.	H. A. Schroeder	Arterial hypertension
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Action: Referred for further study.

RG-60	Washington Univ.	J. R. Van Dyke	Congenital anomalies
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Action: Disapproved.

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Investigator

Subject

RG-61 Saranac Laboratory

L. U. Gardner

Industrial pulmonary diseases

Council advised Research Grants Office that items of hospital costs listed in applications should be fully explained and justified.

Action: Disapproved. It was suggested that a project application on military sarcoidosis be submitted.

RG-62 University of Texas

A. Packchanian

Treponema pallidum and other spirochetes

Action: Disapproved.

RG-64 Yale University

J. H. Dingle

Epidemiology, laboratory and clinical aspects of infectious disease

Dr. Maxcy read a review of this project which he had prepared and in which he pointed out the issues raised by any request for a large sum of money for a long period of time and with a general directive for research.

Determination was reached that RG-64 was a research project and therefore in no way related to proposed support of schools of public health.

Consensus of the Council favored backing of team or group approach if well-defined objectives of research and competency of the investigators is assured.

Conclusion was reached that Yale University should participate in the budget to a greater extent, especially in regard to taking over part of the salaries of the investigators in order to eliminate the issue of subsidization of medical education and in regard to overhead charges; and that the language of the proposal should be "sharpened."

Action: Referred for further study.

RG-65 Guatemala

Pan American Union

Prophylaxis and treatment of Gonorrhoea and Syphilis

Explanation was given that this project application was different from others in that funds were provided by the Venereal Disease Division with mechanics of processing to be handled by the Research Grants Office.

Action: Approved for \$110,450

RG-66 Emory University

Paul B. Beeson
Albert Heyman

Mechanism of fever therapy

Action: Referred for further study.

RG-67 Marquette University

Harry Beckman

Survival of malaria sporoscites in the blood of non-susceptible species

Action: Approved for \$1,750

RG-69 Marquette University

Eben J. Carey

Effect of DDT and other chemicals on the neuromuscular apparatus

Action: Disapproved

Investigator

Subject

RG-70 Univ. of Rochester

A. M. Carpenter

Studies on murine leprosy

Action: Referred for further study.

RG-71 Washington, University

T. E. Walsh

Possible Control of Otosclerosis

Action: Returned for more information.

RG-72 Michigan State College

V. R. Gardner

Antibiotic Agents in Higher Plants

Action: Disapproved

RG-74 Univ. of Rochester

A. D. Kaiser

Epidemiology, etiology, and diagnosis of rheumatic fever

Action: Disapproved

RG-75 Univ. of Michigan

W. J. Nungester

Mechanisms involved in phagocytosis

Action: Approved for \$10,625

RG-76 Univ. of Rochester

H. A. Blair

Brain wave abnormalities in women contracting venereal diseases

Action: Referred for further study.

RG-78 Univ. of Minnesota

J. S. McCartney

Pathogenesis of cirrhosis of the liver

Action: Disapproved

RG-80 Univ. of Minnesota

W. W. Spink

Brucellosis

Action was deferred to give Dr. Meyer opportunity to visit Dr. Spink and make project-site determination and recommendation on the application, especially in regard to narrowing of scope and sharpening of objectives.

Action: Referred for further study.

RG-81 Univ. of Minnesota

G. W. Anderson

Library Research and editing of material on global epidemiology

Action: Approved for \$20,000

RG-87 Johns Hopkins

Harry Eagle

Study of syphilis and trypanosomiasis

Approval was voted subject to administrative and legal restrictions regarding use of grant-in-aid funds for travel of Dr. Eagle and for purchase of penicillin and other supplies for the Belgian Congo.

Action: Approved for \$20,000

RG-89 Univ. of Tennessee

F. E. Whitacre
H. C. Franklin

Penicillin in drops for prophylaxis against ophthalmia neonatorum

Action: Approved for \$3,550

IV. In reporting on development to date of the National Institute of Health Research Fellowship program, Dr. Badger pointed out that since the first notice went out in July, 1945, four hundred and twenty-one inquiries have been received from individuals interested in fellowships and one hundred and thirty-nine formal applications: 84 for junior fellowships, granted to individuals with Master's degree or equivalent; 55 for senior fellowships, awarded only to those with doctorate; and none so far for special fellowships, to be awarded later to those with senior fellowships qualified to conduct specific problems. The National Institute of Health Fellowship Board have considered 129 of these and awarded 13, five senior and eight juniors. It is expected that 40 to 50 fellows will be awarded next fiscal year.

The fellowship system provides a mechanism for selecting and training outstanding men, both for the Institute and elsewhere, with the distinct advantage of one or more years of observation of the men at work. Many universities expressed a desire that their fellows spend at least one year at the Institute.

In answer to question raised, statement was made that \$2,400 a year would be paid junior fellows and \$3,000 to seniors, with all matters concerning regular government support for G. I.'s under their Bill of Rights to be determined by local veterans' boards.

V. In connection with the broad field of research opened up by atomic energy, Dr. Dyer reported that the Bureau of Standards and the National Institute of Health are considering a joint project for the construction of a pile and laboratory facilities for physical and medical research. Consideration is being given to construction of the pile at Bethesda with a laboratory for physical research, one for biological research, and one for chemical research, to be justified each year jointly by the two agencies. Space would probably be provided also for special research projects of other agencies or universities.

Dr. Maxcy reported for the subcommittee composed of Doctors Maxcy, Mustard, and Rose, and appointed to confer with officers of the service regarding research in service hospitals. Conference had been held with the Service committee consisting of Surgeon Harry Isbel, Chairman, Luther L. Perry, and Robert A. Hingston, and review made of 16 applications for grants-in-aid for investigations in service hospitals. Six projects requiring a total of \$8,200 for operation were approved and six projects requiring no financial assistance were approved. The Board also began consideration of the contemplated study of the therapeutic value of streptomycin in marine hospitals. In view of appropriation language, forbidding diversion of hospital funds for research, Dr. R. C. Williams was undertaking to find ways and means to obtain funds necessary to encourage research in the hospitals. Dr. Parran commented that such language had probably been deleted but that no positive authorization had been included. He further stated that there was no reason why the costs of such research should not be borne by the National Institute of Health appropriation. Dr. Dyer indicated his willingness to cooperate beginning July 1, 1946.

Minutes of Meetings of the National Advisory Health
Council, 1945-1960
RG 443, Box 2