

Application refused

Ford Foundation

1955

Refused

20th. December, 1955.

Mr. Bernard Berelson,
Director,
Behavioral Sciences Program,
The Ford Foundation,
477 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Berelson,

Thank you very much for your note of December 15th. We will keep a sharp look-out for the public announcement that you mention.

The recent educational grant by the Ford Foundation has aroused a great deal of extremely favorable comment here at McGill, not only for the magnitude of the grant, but for the foresight and judgement manifested by its provision. I am sure this type of support will pay the biggest possible dividends to the American people. I wonder if there are any plans for this type of help for the Canadian Universities.

We have just had a card from the von Grunebaums telling about a Christmas party the Dorfman's have just held for the remaining original inhabitants of 6019 Ingleside. There was apparently much reminiscing about "the good old days".

With my very best wishes for the holiday season,

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Rasmussen, M.D.

THE FORD FOUNDATION

477 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

December 15, 1955

Dr. Theodore Rasmussen
Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery
Montreal Neurological Institute
3801 University Street
Montreal 2, Canada

Dear Rasmussen:

As you probably know by now the Foundation was unable to support the proposal you and Dr. Penfield submitted for fellowship support. However, I did want you to know that the Foundation is about to make a grant to an intermediary organization for that type of support in the broad field of mental health. It will probably be some weeks or even months before that organization is ready to make a public announcement of its procedures under the grant but I did want you to know that there was another opportunity for satisfying at least some of your needs in that way.

I am confident that when the public announcement is made it will come to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

B-B.

Bernard Berelson
Director

please file
JK

THE FORD FOUNDATION
477 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

December 8, 1955

C
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P
Y

Mr. D. L. Thomson, Dean
McGill University
Montreal, P.Q.
Canada

Dear Dean Thomson:

About a month ago I wrote Dr. Wilder Penfield to tell him that the proposal he and his colleague Dr. Theodore Rasmussen submitted to the Foundation under its mental health program was still under consideration. The officers and staff of the Foundation have now had a further opportunity to review the proposal together with the recommendations of our Advisory Group in this field. Now that we are taking official action I am writing to tell you that the Foundation cannot support their application.

As you perhaps know, the response to our announcement of this program was extensive. The Foundation is gratified at the large number of proposals received and is most interested to learn further of current activities in the field of mental health. You will recall from our announcement that "persons and institutions considering application are asked to note that the Foundation expects to support only a few programs in the indicated areas." I am sorry we cannot spread our support in the field more widely and I am sure you will appreciate that a certain number of meritorious proposals must necessarily be rejected.

I am grateful to you for your interest in this program and I am sorry our reply cannot be favorable.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph M. McDaniel Jr
Secretary

Copies to Dr. Wilder Penfield and
Dr. Theodore Rasmussen

TR copy
6th. August, 1955.

Mr. H. Rowan Gaither Jr.,
President,
Ford Foundation,
655 Madison Avenue,
New York 21,
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gaither,

In December, 1952, the Ford Foundation was approached for support of the scientific work of the Montreal Neurological Institute, and a brochure stating its needs sent to Mr. Bernard Berelson. It was considered at that time that our application did not come within the terms of reference of the objectives of the Ford Foundation. In view of the recent public announcement that the Ford Foundation has allocated a sum of money for research concerning mental illness, we hope this application can now be reconsidered.

We need an endowment of \$500,000.00 for the establishment of research fellowships in our scientific laboratories, where continuing studies of fundamental aspects of the function of the nervous system are under way.

We believe that major advances in the prevention and cure of mental illness will come through long range, uninterrupted, basic study of the nervous system, such as can be carried on only in well equipped laboratories in which the basic neurologic disciplines are closely integrated with each other, and with clinical problems presented by patients suffering from psychiatric and neurologic diseases. Support of basic research in nervous system function and dysfunction, in our opinion, provides the type of investment in the field of mental illness that is most apt to reap important dividends.

There is at this Institute a unique opportunity to study the functions of the human brain through the abundant flow of patients with focal cerebral seizures requiring operation under local anesthesia. Physiological observations made at the operating table almost daily give clues of fundamental importance that furnish guidance for laboratory investigation of basic physiologic nature into the function of the brain. A similar flow of patients with other types of neurological diseases, tumors, demyelinating diseases etc. furnish a similar guidance for basic pathologic and chemical investigations.

In the brochure mentioned above, the needs of the scientific and clinical divisions of the Institute were described. During the past three years some of these have been provided for. The construction of a new wing, generously provided for by Mr. J.W. McConnell and some of his friends in Montreal, has doubled both the laboratory space and the hospital space. Additional endowment, also from Mr. McConnell, has provided for the minimum basic running expenses of three of the Institute's five research laboratories, namely the Laboratory of Neuropathology, the Laboratory of Neurophysiology, and the Laboratory of Neuroanatomy and Medical Neuropathology. The basic running expenses of the fourth, the Laboratory of Neurochemistry, are provided for in perpetuity by a grant from the Canadian Donner Foundation. The fifth, the Laboratory for Research into Multiple Sclerosis, lives a dangerous existence on a yearly grant from the Canadian Multiple Sclerosis Society. All five of these laboratories have been well equipped with instruments purchased with special grants derived largely from the Canadian Government.

It has been necessary, however, to finance the professional personnel of these laboratories in large part by means of yearly grants for special projects.

The stability of permanent endowment is essential to maintain the highly skilled and specialized staffs of these laboratories, and to promote efficient operation of the laboratories. We need an endowment of \$500,000.00 for establishment of research fellowships. The yearly income from such an endowment would insure the support of the research fellows on whom the productiveness of the research laboratory largely depends. We would pro-

Mr. H. Rowan Gaither Jr.

- 3 -

6th. August, 1955.

pose that this money be used for junior or senior fellowships ranging from \$2,000.00 to \$6,000.00 or \$8,000.00 yearly, depending on the need of the laboratories at the time. The holder of such an award could be designated "Ford Foundation Fellow or Scholar".

The establishment of the fellowships described above on a permanent basis would be of great importance in promoting fundamental studies of nervous system function from which we believe the really major advances in the field of mental disease will come.

We would be pleased to amplify this application, or to meet with representatives of the Ford Foundation, if further information is desired.

Sincerely yours,

Wilder Penfield,

Director

Theodore Rasmussen

Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery and Deputy Director.

please show to
WP

JR

THE FORD FOUNDATION
477 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

JOSEPH M. McDANIEL, JR.
SECRETARY

November 7, 1955

Dr. Wilder Penfield
Director, Montreal Neurological Institute
3801 University Street
Montreal 2, Canada

Dear Dr. Penfield:

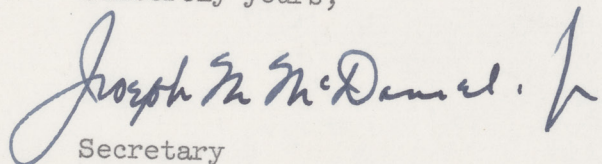
This is simply a note to tell you that the proposal you submitted to the Foundation under its mental health program is still under consideration.

As you perhaps know, a very large number of proposals were submitted to the Foundation and it is inevitably taking some time for the Advisory Group and the staff to review and appraise all of them.

We at the Foundation simply want you to know that our evaluation is still in process and that it will be some weeks, and perhaps even longer, before a final decision on your application will be reached.

I am sure you appreciate the need for time in such matters and I wish to express the Foundation's gratitude for your understanding.

Sincerely yours,


Secretary

31st. August, 1955.

Mr. Bernard Berelson,
Director,
Behavioural Sciences Program,
The Ford Foundation,
477 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Berelson,

Thank you for your letter to
Dr. Penfield of August 15th. I am enclosing an
additional seven copies of our proposal along with
eight copies of a covering letter from Dean Thomson,
Vice Principal of McGill University.

Some members of your advisory group
are, I am sure, familiar with the work of the Montreal
Neurological Institute. We would, of course, be happy
to have any representatives of this group or the Ford
Foundation visit us for a closer look at our facilities
and program.

Dr. Penfield and/or I would be happy
to come to New York to discuss our application further
if this is desired.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Rasmussen, M.D.

COPY

August 29th, 1955.

Mr. Bernard Berelson,
Director,
Behavioural Sciences Program,
The Ford Foundation,
477 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Berelson,

I have read the letter of August 6th, 1955,
in which my colleagues Doctors Penfield and Rasmussen
apply for a fund of \$500,000 to endow research fellow-
ships in the Montreal Neurological Institute, under
your new Mental Health Program. McGill University
would indeed be happy to see this proposal receive
favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely

Sgd. D.L. Thomson

Vice Principal

DLT/nc

THE FORD FOUNDATION
477 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

*All right Ted
you will have to get Principals
authorization etc*

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

August 15, 1955

Dr. Wilder Penfield
Director, Montreal Neurological Institute
3801 University Street
Montreal 2, Canada

Dear Dr. Penfield:

This will acknowledge receipt of your application to the Foundation for the endowment of research professorships at the Montreal Neurological Institute.

Since you are applying under the terms of our mental health program I must ask you to submit another seven copies of your proposal. You will note that eight copies of the application are requested in our announcement.

You will also note that "Each application must be accompanied by an official letter of submission from the principal administrative officer of the sponsoring institution, or an officer specifically designated by him." If the Institute is the sponsoring institution, then, of course, your submission is sufficient. However, if McGill University is considered as the sponsor, I would be glad to receive a letter of sponsorship from the chief administrative officer of the University.

We are glad to have your application under this program and you may be assured that we shall bring it to the attention of our Advisory Group.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard Berelson

Bernard Berelson
Director

*copy sent to
Vice Principal
Aug 25*

*(Dr. Rasmussen may recall that he & I
lived in the same building at Chicago
and we spoke from the same platform!)*

August 24th, 1955

Dean D.L. Thomson,
Vice-Principal,
McGill University.

Dear Dean Thomson:

I am enclosing a copy of an application Dr. Penfield and I have made to the Ford Foundation for support under their programme of support for research in mental health, recently announced. A copy of this announcement is also enclosed. You will note that there is a September 1st deadline.

If this application meets with your approval, could you let me have eight copies of a letter indicating approval and sponsorship from you as the Acting Chief Administrative Officer of the University. I will then attach one copy of your letter to each of the eight copies of the application and send them in for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

TR/AD
Encls.

Theodore Rasmussen, M.D.

C O P Y

6th. August, 1955.

Mr. H. Rowan Gaither Jr.,
President,
Ford Foundation,
655 Madison Avenue,
New York 21,
N.Y.

Dear Mr. Gaither,

In December, 1952, the Ford Foundation was approached for support of the scientific work of the Montreal Neurological Institute, and a brochure stating its needs sent to Mr. Bernard Berelson. It was considered at that time that our application did not come within the terms of reference of the objectives of the Ford Foundation. In view of the recent public announcement that the Ford Foundation has allocated a sum of money for research concerning mental illness, we hope this application can now be reconsidered.

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We believe that major advances in the prevention and cure of mental illness will come through long range, uninterrupted, basic study of the nervous system, such as can be carried on only in well equipped laboratories in which the basic neurologic disciplines are closely integrated with each other, and with clinical problems presented by patients suffering from psychiatric and neurologic diseases. Support of basic research in nervous system function and dysfunction, in our opinion, provides the type of investment in the field of mental illness that is most apt to reap important dividends.

Mr. H. Rowan Gaither Jr. - 2 - 6th. August, 1955

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Mr. H. Rowan Gaither Jr. - 3 - 6th. August, 1955.

pose that this money be used for junior or senior fellowships ranging from \$2,000.00 to \$6,000.00 or \$8,000.00 yearly, depending on the need of the laboratories at the time. The holder of such an award could be designated "Ford Foundation Fellow or Scholar".

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We would be pleased to amplify this application, or to meet with representatives of the Ford Foundation, if further information is desired.

Sincerely yours,

Wilder Penfield,
Director

Theodore Rasmussen

Theodore Rasmussen

Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery and Deputy Director.

25th. June, 1955.

The Ford Foundation,
477 Madison Avenue,
New York 22,
N.Y.

Gentlemen:

We have been interested in the recent press release announcing the program of the Ford Foundation for the support of research into mental health. I am told that you have a leaflet describing this program in more detail, and I would appreciate very much your sending it to me along with any other explanatory material you have related to current activities of the Ford Foundation in supporting research into mental and neurological illness.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Rasmussen, M.D.
Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery.