

ROBERT SARGENT SHRIVER, JR.

January 4, 1962

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Dr. Norman Kretchmer
Stanford University School of Medicine
Palo Alto, California

Dear Drs. Lederberg and Kretchmer:

I am happy to respond to your proposal for the creation of the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Laboratories for Molecular Medicine Dedicated to the Study of Mental Retardation. We understand that the Departments of Pediatrics, Genetics and Obstetrics specifically are making this proposal, but we are informed by you that all departments and scientists whose work impinges on research in mental retardation are informed and interested, and that, for example, Dr. Kornberg's personnel and laboratories will be closely connected with our efforts, physically and scientifically.

LT. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR
MEDICINE DEDICATED TO THE STUDY OF MENTAL RETARDATION

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation is prepared to grant the Stanford Medical School \$1,000,000 for the construction and equipment of the third floor of the new Clinical Sciences Building with the understanding that this sum constitutes part of a larger financing operation whereby a total of \$5,600,000 will be raised and expended by Stanford to create on "our floor" and on the other two floors one of the Nation's most advanced facilities for medical research. The floor being paid for by the Kennedy Foundation will be designated in perpetuity as the "Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Laboratories for Molecular Medicine Dedicated to the Study of Mental Retardation"; and this name will be used on the scientific publications, letters, pamphlets and other documents emanating from the scientists working in these facilities. The name will be inscribed, of course, in an appropriate manner in the laboratories themselves. It is our hope, which we understand you share, to publicize in these ways, and in others which you may suggest from time to time, the whole field of mental retardation as an area for scientific activity. It is our understanding that no money advanced by the Foundation for these laboratories will be used to purchase equipment or supplies which would be obtainable from other sources, such as the Federal Government. It is also the Foundation's understanding that a financial accounting will be rendered to the Foundation indicating how this particular part of the total grant is expended.

LT. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. FLUID RESEARCH FUND

An annual grant of a sum not to exceed \$25,000 per annum for each of the next four years will be made to the Stanford Medical School for the study of the etiology of mental retardation. The purpose of these funds would be to provide short-term grants for senior investigators to develop new approaches and techniques to problems of mental retardation. The fund would also permit and stimulate research by young investigators in the field of mental retardation. In making this grant, the Foundation is not making a fixed commitment of \$25,000 per annum, but is agreeing to provide funds up to \$25,000 per annum, provided suitable projects are submitted to the Kennedy Coordinating Committee for research studies of the type contemplated. It is possible that some years would see a request for only \$10,000 or \$15,000 to the Foundation for these purposes. Other years might produce even more than \$25,000 in suitable requests. The Foundation's commitment, however, is to provide \$25,000 per annum for each of the next four years which can be taken down by the Medical School on the basis of research projects approved by the Kennedy Coordinating Committee on Mental Retardation. Unused balances in any calendar year would be returnable to the Foundation upon request.

KENNEDY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL RETARDATION RESEARCH

It is our understanding that Stanford Medical School will establish a Kennedy Coordinating Committee representing various areas of interest within the School of Medicine, and other schools, if desirable. The committee would be composed of the following faculty members, each of whom has expressed enthusiasm for a broad approach to this research problem: Dr. Joshua Lederberg, Chairman; Dr. Norman Kretchmer, Professor and Executive Head of the Department of Pediatrics; Dr. Arthur Kornberg, Professor of Biochemistry; Dr. Frank Morrell, Professor of Neurology; Dr. Robert Alway, Dean of the Medical School and Professor of Pediatrics; Dr. David A. Hamburg, Professor of Psychiatry; and Dr. C. E. McClennan, Professor of Obstetrics. The functions of this committee and particularly the function of the chairman would be to provide stimulation and leadership in clinical and experimental research in the field of mental retardation. In addition, the committee would be responsible for:

- a) Disbursement of the Kennedy Memorial Fluid Research Fund.
- b) Review and evaluation of the on-going research efforts.

- c) Initiation and approval of new research projects.
- d) Recruitment of new research personnel interested in mental retardation.
- e) Development of training programs and curricula for graduate and post-graduate studies in mental retardation.
- f) Annual scientific reports to the Kennedy Foundation trustees.
- g) Coordination of all mental retardation research within the Stanford Medical School setting.

The coordinating committee will also be responsible for the development of training programs and the encouragement of research fellows to work in the various areas of importance to research in mental retardation.

HOSPITAL BEDS

The Kennedy Foundation believes it is essential for scientists doing research work on mental retardation to have access to hospital beds. It is our understanding that an adequate number of beds, possibly in the Stanford Convalescent Home, will be supplied as needed for long-term study of patients with mental retardation.

VISITING COMMITTEE

It is our understanding that the Stanford Medical School will officially invite and welcome an annual site visit by a committee appointed by the Kennedy Foundation to review the scientific work being carried on in the Kennedy Memorial Laboratories and the operations of the coordinating committee. Composition of this committee would be established by the Foundation and would include scientific, as well as lay members. This committee would receive copies of the annual report on scientific progress referred to above and would also receive an annual report from the Treasurer of Stanford in which would be detailed the various expenditures for all parts of the program.

DIRECTORSHIP OF KENNEDY RESEARCH PROGRAM AT STANFORD MEDICAL SCHOOL

In addition to his title as Chairman of the Kennedy Coordinating Committee on Mental Retardation Research, the Foundation would like Dr. Lederberg to be designated by the Medical School as the Director of the over-all

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research program itself. We are conscious of the fact that a program involving doctors of such eminence and distinction as those involved in the proposed Kennedy laboratories does not require "direction". We nevertheless feel that the membership of the coordinating committee may vary from time to time. Expenditures from the Fluid Research Fund may vary and future grants to possible "Kennedy Senior Scholars" will require active leadership by the senior professors. This program, moreover, is not one of brief duration and many contingencies may arise in future years. Therefore, it is the Foundation's opinion and request that Dr. Lederberg be designated by the Stanford Medical School faculty as the Director of this program, and that the Medical School syllabus of studies carry this title after Dr. Lederberg's name. This is important to the Kennedy Foundation because one of the encouraging aspects of this undertaking has been Dr. Lederberg's personal enthusiasm for the project and his desire to devote a large amount of his professional, scientific time to the development of the proposed Kennedy Laboratories, the Fluid Research Fund, and related activities. His interest in discovering the fundamental causes for the various diseases which cause mental retardation has provided an effective guaranty that the research program will be focused on the problem of principal interest to the Foundation, and his scientific reputation, along with Dr. Kretchmer, Dr. Kornberg, Dr. Morrell and others, make national recognition almost a certainty for the new laboratories and research program. The Foundation, therefore, respectfully requests that the Medical School designate Dr. Lederberg in the manner indicated above.

The problem of selecting a successor for such a distinguished person when that time comes will be difficult, but it seems desirable, nonetheless, to have a clear understanding now of what should happen then.

With reference to this question, the Foundation would like to suggest that mutual agreement be given to the principle that any successor to the directorship be a person whose career in research discloses a genuine, continuing interest in diseases which cause mental retardation. Also, it seems appropriate to recommend that future directors be men of such reputation and stature that they have already achieved full professorial appointments at Stanford Medical School or that they are acceptable for such appointments. Having begun at such an excellent level with Dr. Lederberg as director, the Foundation would certainly want future leaders to be men of equal distinction.

BOOKLET AND LECTURES

The members of the Kennedy Foundation have seen from time to time publications describing post-graduate training programs in various disciplines, telling of the opportunities for research and scientific advances being made in those disciplines at a particular institution. It is our feeling that a

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pamphlet of this type describing the program at Stanford Medical would be of great help nationally. It would encourage many students to seek out Stanford for training opportunities in mental retardation research; it would help to establish mental retardation as an important discipline within the framework of the medical school; it would direct attention to what certainly will be one of the most outstanding mental retardation training and research programs in the United States.

It is also our understanding that Drs. Lederberg, Kretchmer, et al, plan to initiate a series of lectures and seminars on mental retardation research which will serve to interest medical students and post-graduate students in the possibilities for research careers in this field. The Foundation is very much impressed by this desire on the part of Drs. Lederberg and Kretchmer and would assume that talks and seminars of this type will be instituted as soon as possible, and, in any event, substantially before the completion of the proposed laboratories. In other words, we do not want to wait until the proposed laboratories are finished for increased activity to begin in the mental retardation field.

To summarize:

The Kennedy Foundation is prepared to advance \$1,000,000 in capital funds, plus \$25,000 a year for the next four years for a Fluid Research Fund for the purpose of commencing at Stanford University a new and outstanding program on mental retardation research. The Foundation is prepared also to consider the possibility of establishing Kennedy Senior Scholars at Stanford provided suitable nominations can be made for our consideration.

May I close this long letter with a word of personal thanks to you for the kind consideration you will give this letter. Everyone connected with Stanford Medical School has been most courteous to those of us representing the Kennedy Foundation. It is my sincere hope that the proposals outlined above will form the basis for a long and mutually profitable relationship between your distinguished university and our foundation.

Sincerely,



Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr.