Dear Dr Gregg

I believe that you are on holiday, so must apologize for troubling you with even a hint of business. I am not, as you will see, going to ask you for more than an informal indication as to the likelihood of certain proposals being favourably received, so that I can go ahead and get the requisite details without undue delay.

I have been giving thought, with my colleagues, to the suggestion which you put before me at your visit, and we are preparing a scheme which I should like to put before you soon after the vacation period. Meanwhile, it is the uncertainty of certain possibilities of promising addition to our team of workers in virology which presents themselves; it hardly seems right to delay their consideration until we can present a scheme of planned expansion.
1. F. M. Burnet, of Melbourne (Australia), is a
man in whom I have long my eye for some time
past. He worked for a period, some years ago, at
the Walter Reed Institute, and then went back to Melbourne,
where he has been producing some striking work on
viruses at the Walter Reed Medical Institute. I had
hesitated to throw my weight in his direction, lest
I might be making an empty gesture in the staff
of that Institute. My hesitation came happily to a
head, however, written spontaneously to ask whether
we can give Burnet an opportunity wider than
that which Melbourne is likely to afford. He speaks
of him as a man of brilliant originality, making
very clear a cooperation with other virus workers
from Melbourne can fit. I believe we should
eventually do a real service to the progress of
virus investigations in the whole world if we could
get Burnet here for even a few years, with
a possibility of his ultimate return, with wider
experience & equipment, to Australia.

2. H. F. Fischer, who has in recent years
been in Kolle's staff at Frankfort, seeks
opportunity to come to us for about
18 months, particularly with a view to
further experience of virus research & later
using it in Germany. He is in a different class from Burnet, in that he has not hit and run in virology. On the other hand, he has a good record of very sound and accurate work in more conventional immunology.

I have not yet made sufficient inquiries, but regard to these were to be able to work proposals in financial detail. Fischer would probably be very pleased to get something of the order of £400 p.a. One of the usual travelling fellowships might be adequate for him; but I should not prefer not to leave the choice of my putting his hand to the chance of his choice, out of a possibly large field of applicants, by the Nofgemeinschaft.

We probably ought to offer Burnet a higher scale, more comparable to that of a man of Wilson Smith's experience (£700-800 p.a.).

There is one other direction in which we could be quickly aided by a temporary addition to
personal. Ewald's filtering membranes have become so important a tool of our virus work that he is in danger of being turned into a membrane-maker, to his colleagues' chagrin, to the detriment of his chance of further advance. I should like to be able to free him presently to go to Sweden, to make contact with Norden's work on ultrafiltration. What I want for him is a young colleague, with good physico-chemical training, with a desire to turn it to biological use. I could easily pick up one in this country; but it occurs to me that, in the general interest of virus work, you might like to consider providing the means for us to have a suitable young American in this capacity.

All I want to put to you at present is the question, whether I should go ahead with inquiries in the direction indicated, pending our further consideration of a wider scheme. I do not want to give you the idea that we shall be worrying you with a number of minor successive applications. On the other hand, I thought you might wish to know that, in the all-important matter of increasing our personnel for this work, there are certain favourable possibilities, open at the moment, which we might lose by deferring action until other proposals are ripe. Will you let me have your general view?

I hope we are making good holiday. Yours sincerely.

H. H. Dale