



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

THE PRESIDENT

September 21, 1978

Mr. P. O. Williams  
Director  
The Wellcome Trust  
1 Park Square West  
London, NW1 4LJ  
England

Dear Mr. Williams:

Please forgive the delay in responding to your letter of July 18. Throughout the summer I was deeply involved in completing obligations at Stanford and moving my family to New York City, and I am just now catching up on many important matters.

To respond to your specific questions regarding Dr. R. T. Reese's application, I will outline the situation on our campus with respect to research in tropical diseases, such as the work on malaria in Professor William Trager's laboratory. I have been deeply interested in this area, e.g. through working on WHO-ACMR to launch WHO's recent initiative. So I was happy to discover the vigorous effort on these problems at The Rockefeller University when I arrived here. During the next several years I will work hard to promote our scientific programs in this field. Such contributions to urgent international health goals surely deserve national but also international support. At this time US sources are just beginning to answer to our national responsibilities in this field; when they do I hope they will be responsive to good proposals from any quarter.

Regarding Dr. Reese's specific needs for renovating his laboratory: he and Professor Trager have made many inquiries to federal agencies and to potential private sponsors. Unfortunately, renovation funds are the hardest to get from such sources. The University has made some funds available; but the limits on our independent resources obligate, as a matter of policy, all laboratories to look to external support.

Mr. P. O. Williams  
September 21, 1978

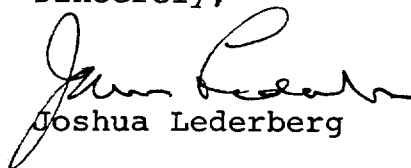
- 2 -

You did ask why the University itself did not answer Dr. Reese's application. After several years of substantial deficits, the University is now in fiscal balance in its operating budget; but we are still in red ink with respect to capital items and renovations. I realize that many people have an image of the resources of The Rockefeller University which is unhappily out of date. I will be happy to send you the gory details if you wish.

Although Professor Trager will "retire" in about two years, he plans to continue to be active on our campus thereafter as an emeritus investigator. For example, I have just approved a major program that goes for three years. Further, although Dr. Reese does not have contractual tenure, his present appointment extends to October 31, 1979 and he is eligible for renewal after the appropriate reviews. In view of our firm commitment to research in this area, renovation of the laboratory would support parasitological research for a long time.

We hope you will find it possible to support Dr. Reese's modest application. Beyond that as we develop our plans further, I would welcome further discussion about the general fields in which the Wellcome Trust and the University share common interests.

Sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg

cc: Mr. Rodney W. Nichols

*file copy - Trager file - Wellcome*