

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
STANFORD MEDICAL CENTER  
300 PASTEUR DRIVE, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

October 3, 1966

Davenport 7-1200  
Ext. 5032

Dr. John Z. Bowers,  
President,  
Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation  
16 West 46th Street  
New York, New York 10036

Dear John:

The ACME computer project has proved to be the most vexatious thing I have ever taken on. I hope it may become the most rewarding. But there have been eternal crises of funding and timing, with interlocks between IBM hardware schedules and software development, NIH funding, and location planning with the University administration. The one bright spot has been the personal support of Bob Glaser and yourself, and this really has been instrumental in tiding us over. Without the financial support from the Macy Foundation we could never have gotten off the ground.

We have only just now received the formal letter of award from NIH, which finally lets us recast our financial plans for the year starting September 1. We would both insist that a private foundation would be foolish to compete with NIH, and I am only coming to you for what we cannot fund in that way.

The NIH has cut us back in two stages, while IBM has just thrown a lease-rise at us, and we now face a gap, on a restripped budget, of about \$150,000 for/year starting September 1, 1966. This is after an NIH award of \$440,000, now warranted to us for each of three years. I am therefore asking the Macy Foundation to renew its support for the year beginning September 1 to the amount of \$120,000, mostly for the personnel who will be designing and maintaining the computer system. This sum also includes \$20,000 needed to complete the installation of the computer in a very attractive location where it can be both very functional and a showpiece for the community. This \$20,000 will be in addition to \$15,000 that has been allocated from the current grant for the 1966 year to start the installation. It matches an equal sum from the NIH grant.

NASA is also supporting this project through its grant to the Instrumentation Research Laboratory. The most significant item is \$110,000 for the purchase of the 1800 computer which will be linked to the 360-50, and about \$40,000 per year for engineering personnel working on related projects.

The additional personnel requested now are, however, absolutely essential to make the ACME system generally available to the medical school community.

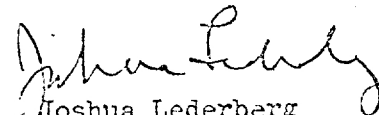
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If \$120,000 is a large bite to digest in one lump at such short notice, I would be very appreciative of, say, half the amount for the next six months to keep us going while we still get our bearings.

Please let me know what I can clarify about this proposal. I have put it together in some haste in the squeeze between the delay from NIH and the timing of your board meeting and our own program.

Sincerely yours,

  
Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

Enclosures:

1. ACME proposal to NIH.
2. A Summary of the ACME System (Gio Wiederhold, May 26, 1966).
3. Status Report on ACME System.