



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

BETHESDA 14, MD.

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NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
Tel: 656-4000

November 12, 1963

In reply refer
to AI 05130-06
GEN SS

M-5160-06

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics
Stanford University
300 Pasteur Drive
Palo Alto, California

Dear Doctor Lederberg:

Your exchange of correspondence on use of funds in grant AI 05130-06 GEN for foreign travel has come to my attention. You are entitled to a clearer statement of our present position and an opportunity to "share" with us some of the problems that have developed.

As you know, the NIH is composed of a number of somewhat autonomous units that can and do make administrative decisions on grants within their jurisdiction. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases position on a number of issues regarding use of grant funds is strongly influenced by the clear prospect that it will not be able to support a sizeable number of approved new projects this year because of a \$3 - \$4 million deficit. Although the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is more seriously affected this year than other Institutes, it appears likely that within a year or two all Institutes will have the same problem. In considering grantee activities that might logically be curtailed with least probable effect upon research progress, it seems apparent to nearly everyone that foreign travel to meetings is the one activity that would especially qualify.

In addition to the NIAID position, however, the question has been posed at NIH administrative levels whether foreign travel to meetings should be supported with restrictions and, if so, by what mechanism(s). A series of meetings to attempt to resolve this question have been held without success to date.

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In the meantime the NIAID has taken the position that it will handle exigent requests on a day to day basis awaiting outcome of the policy review.

I feel I should make it clear that if NIH policy remains permissive, the NIAID reserves the prerogative to continue to restrict foreign travel to favor those who present effective cases and are supported in part on institutional or personal funds.

We would be interested in any comments you may have.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. C. Backus".

R. C. Backus, Ph.D.
Chief, Extramural Programs
National Institute of Allergy
and Infectious Diseases