

GRANT IN AID to the Social Science Research Council for expenses of a conference on research areas in the medical and social sciences to be held under the auspices of the Committee on Preventive Medicine and Social Science Research

AMOUNT: \$10,000

JUN 8 1957

ACCOUNT: To be charged to RF 56203 MEPH
leaving a balance of \$134,440

RELATION TO PROGRAM: Medical Education and Public Health: General

PREVIOUS INTEREST: None for this purpose. Since 1947 considerable support has been provided for fellowships and grant in aid programs of the Social Science Research Council, as well as aid for general administrative expenses and numerous research committees.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: In 1953 the Social Science Research Council formed the Committee on Preventive Medicine and Social Science Research to investigate opportunities for integrated research between the medical and social sciences in problems related to preventive medicine and community medicine. This committee has functioned under the chairmanship of Dr. Hugh R. Leavell, of Harvard University, and Dr. Henry van Zile Hyde, Division of International Health, U.S. Public Health Service. Prominent figures such as Dr. Leona Baumgartner, Commissioner of Health of New York City, Dr. Benjamin Paul, of Harvard University, and Dr. Donald Young, of the Russell Sage Foundation, have met at frequent intervals during the past four years with representatives of a wide field of interest in the medical and social sciences seeking areas pertinent to integrated research. These deliberations have resulted in rather concrete delineation of problems which can be attacked fruitfully, and five general papers are now in preparation for publication. The committee now feels that its final task should be one in which competent individuals in both fields are informed of areas in which fruitful work might be done and agreement reached to initiate some of the projects in appropriate institutions. The committee has determined that the soundest way to bring about such operational programs would be to assemble a highly selected group numbering 15 from the medical sciences and 15 from the social sciences, in addition to the present committee of 10, for a four-day working conference to explore in depth current research in each area and to propose concrete research problems which could be undertaken by the conference members. The thought is to choose 5 individuals in each area who head major institutions capable of undertaking such research, and 10 individuals engaged in research related to the fields or aware of fundamental research procedures applicable to both fields. It is proposed to hold this meeting at some undetermined site in the third week of June, 1958. It is estimated that the total cost including preparatory expenses, conference space, per diem allowances, and travel for 40 persons would be approximately \$15,000. The Social Science Research Council is seeking \$10,000 from The Rockefeller Foundation for this important conference and will undertake to find the additional money from other foundation sources. Early assurance of financing is needed in order to assure the attendance of the prominent individuals involved one year hence. This grant is recommended strongly on the basis that it would represent the first integrated attempt to propose specific and fundamental research in what are interdependent fields relating to health and community development.

A grant of \$10,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, to the Social Science Research Council toward the expenses of a conference on problems relating to research in the medical and social sciences to be held under the auspices of the Committee on Preventive Medicine and Social Science Research is hereby approved: this grant to be available during the period ending September 30, 1958.

John C. Bugher
Director for Medical Education & Public Health

Warren Weaver
Comptroller

Warren Weaver
Vice-President for Natural & Medical Sciences

APPROVED: _____

MAY 29 1957