

DEC - 8 1931



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR:  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM

THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

November 27th,  
1931.

Dr. Allan Gregg, Director,  
Department of Medical Sciences,  
The Rockefeller Foundation,  
61 Broadway, New York City.

My dear Dr. Gregg,

By a generous grant in 1920 and by sympathetic encouragement, the Rockefeller Foundation coöperated with McGill University in making it possible to put the Biological and Pathological Departments on a promising basis. Year by year the University has added to the facilities then provided, and increased its staff by a most carefully selected group of teachers and scientists. The outcome has been that much research work has been carried on, and results of great scientific value have been achieved. We believe that in these preliminary sciences no better staff and no better facilities exist in Canada.

Again, in 1924 the Foundation made a generous contribution, coöperating with McGill University and the Royal Victoria Hospital in enabling us to establish in the last-named institution The University Medical Clinic, under the charge of Professor Jonathan Meakins. What has transpired since justifies us in the belief that the undertaking has been an unqualified success, not only in its development of research and in the stimulus given to medical

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thought in our University, but by the increase of co-operation between the Hospital and the University it has proved an uplifting influence upon the whole Medical School.

But we were not satisfied, and fully realised that there were many developments yet to be considered. Among the most important of these was the necessity of increasing the efficiency and importance of a sub-department of Neurology, and with that in view, in the year 1928 we called Dr. Wilder G. Penfield to join the staff and invited Dr. W.V. Cone to be his Assistant. In order to achieve even this much, it was necessary to enlist the coöperation of friends of the University, and we then raised, with their help, a sum of approximately \$75,000. In addition to this, we guaranteed, from independent sources, a minimum income of \$10,000 a year to Doctor Penfield. The University and the Hospital between them expended an additional sum of \$25,000 to make the work possible in this new field. Later on, we re-organized the whole Department of Neurology and Neuro-Surgery, placing Doctor Penfield at the head of the joint Department, with assistants up to the limit of our budget.

*single expenditure  
(not annually)*

Shortly after his arrival in Montreal, Doctor Penfield notified us that it was his desire to establish a Neurological Institute in Montreal, one which would provide him with further scope for his work, and enable him to establish a school of Neurology that would be the centre for teaching, treatment and research in this most important field.

Doctor Penfield further expressed the desire to approach the Rockefeller Foundation for a grant to aid in this project, and on January 28th, 1929, he interviewed the late Doctor Richard M. Pearce to ascertain if in any way the Foundation would be interested. Doctor Pearce at the time apparently gave him sufficient encouragement to warrant Doctor Penfield saying on his return to Montreal that if the community here was sufficiently interested and if the Hospital and the University would coöperate, the Foundation might possibly give the matter their favourable consideration.

Plans were immediately discussed, and it was decided to liberate space in the Royal



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Victoria Hospital for Neurology and Neuro-Surgery, by removing the resident staff from the central building of the Hospital and erecting a special home for them on a piece of land outside the main building.

This new home was erected and has been completed recently. Further study of the situation, however, convinced us that the space thus afforded would be insufficient to meet the requirements of Doctor Penfield.

On March 17th of this year, I believe Doctor Penfield again consulted the Foundation, the conference on this occasion being held with yourself. You expressed yourself as interested, and proposed that later in the year you would visit Montreal to study the conditions now prevailing here and to acquaint yourself with what had transpired since your last visit some years ago.

One month later, however, overtures were made to Doctor Penfield, offering him a position elsewhere, with the possibility of having at his disposal an Institute along lines similar to those he had already outlined for consideration with respect to Montreal.

Inasmuch as Doctor Penfield expressed to us a desire to remain in Montreal, provided satisfactory facilities could be placed at his disposal, we took immediate steps to enlist the interest of private citizens, the civic authorities and the provincial government in this project which we felt convinced was of such supreme importance and concern to the welfare, and prestige, of our Medical School, to medical education in Canada, and to the health of the citizens of this country.

I am glad to be in a position to affirm that the University holds a commitment from the Province of Quebec, by which the Government pledges itself to support the establishment of an Institute devoted to Neurology and Neuro-Surgery, by a grant of \$20,000 per annum. I have also the commitment

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of the proper authorities of the City of Montreal, pledging a grant of \$15,000 per annum to this project.

In addition to this, the University pledges itself to the extent of \$250,000, to enable this Institute to be established and get going. This amount has been raised by the Governors of the University (among whom many are also Governors of the Royal Victoria Hospital) and by citizens interested in the undertaking.

The Royal Victoria Hospital gives the land, valued at \$32,000, on which it is proposed that the Institute shall be erected, and will in addition furnish the necessary supervision.

The Institute will be operated, directed and controlled by the University and by the Royal Victoria Hospital.

*owned by R. Vict  
Hospital.*

I am attaching herewith statements which will show, in what I hope is intelligent detail, the cost of the whole undertaking.

I am enclosing as well an <sup>7</sup>aeroplane photograph of the Royal Victoria Hospital plant, whereon is marked the site of the proposed Institute. Furthermore, I am sending to you plans of the building which have been most carefully worked out by a very competent firm of architects and engineers.

You will see that it is our hope to establish in this Institute a School for Neurology and Neuro-Surgery unsurpassed on this Continent, if not in the whole world. In Doctor Penfield we have a Director of the highest distinction, a great teacher, a great scientist and a great surgeon. He is not only a man of promise but one who has definitely arrived. He is only forty years of age, and if Providence is kind to him and to us his greatest work lies before him. In Dr. Cone he has a most worthy assistant, one who has already given ample evidence of his skill and ability as an operator and as a research worker. It is our intention to employ a staff of assistants and technicians of the very highest order. During the last



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three years the work of Doctors Penfield and Cone has developed greatly and shown such signal advance as to attract widespread attention in the medical profession and medical schools of this Continent and even from abroad.

All unexpended funds at present in the hands of the University, or pledged to the University, for the purpose of Doctor Penfield's Department, and all funds given by outsiders to Doctor Penfield for the prosecution of his work, and now unexpended, will continue to be devoted to his Department. Further, if any of the obligations to be assumed by the University in connection with the plans for the new Institute can be executed for less money than set forth in the attached tables, the University pledges itself that such savings will be devoted to the interests of this Institute, as may be decided by the University in consultation and agreement with Doctor Penfield.

It will be seen from the attached Appendices that we are asking the Foundation -

To assume half the cost of the building, i.e., .....	\$172,000
To supply the scientific equipment which Doctor Penfield estimates will cost...	\$ 34,516
To provide an endowment sufficient to cover the annual appropriation stipulated by Dr. Penfield as necessary to enable him to prosecute satisfactorily his scientific work, i.e., \$56,450.....	\$

This project can only be carried to a successful conclusion if we receive financial assistance, encouragement and coöperation from the Foundation. We feel that if we receive this help we can confidently give you the assurance that we can perform a service and fulfill a mission that will be of incalculable value to the welfare of the human race,

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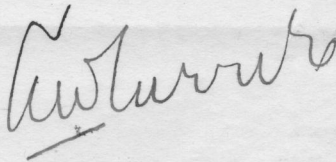
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to medical research and medical education, and one that will redound to the credit of all concerned.

May I, in conclusion, give you the assurance that more thought and study has been given to this project than would perhaps appear in the rather hurried presentation of our case. It was only yesterday that the University and the Hospital came to a definite understanding as to what the contribution of each might be.

Dean Martin of the Faculty of Medicine and Doctor Penfield leave for New York to-night with this letter, Appendices and Exhibits. I hold myself in readiness to go to New York for conference, if my presence is desired there.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Arthur W. Lawrence". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Principal & Vice-Chancellor.