

58

FILE

CAUTIONFOR NIH ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLYMEMORANDUM

August 24, 1950

To : Directors of Institutes
From : Dr. Dyer
Subject: Request for \$30 Million for Medical Research in Defense Plans

At the request of a small bipartisan group of Senators, headed by Senator Pepper, who have continued this interest in supporting the defense responsibilities of the NIH following defeat of the Magnuson amendment, the Surgeon General directed us to assist in the preparation of two statements covering a \$30 million defense program.

We helped prepare first a one-page outline for the President, which was delivered to him on Monday, August 21. It was reported to have received favorable reaction and was referred to the Bureau of the Budget for consideration. There was next prepared a justification of the request to the President for presentation by the Senatorial group to the Bureau of the Budget yesterday, August 23.

The statements are attached for your information and discussion of details and the relationship of his proposal to other budgeting proposals.

III. Defense Research Funds Related to Mental, Heart, Cancer, and Dental Research Areas.

The present backlog of unpaid research and training grants has developed during the expansion of medical research on a peacetime basis. Even these are minimal figures, because limited appropriations made it futile to request funds up to the total needs and capacities of present research centers.

The Korean crisis and the mobilization of the nation means that medical research should be greatly expanded to advance fundamental research as well as to solve immediate problems of military combat and civil defense. \$8,000,000 of the \$30,000,000 request would be needed to carry out basic and clinical research projects along the lines already approved; the balance of \$22,000,000 would be available primarily for medical research work of direct relation to defense. A proposed distribution to meet these needs would be: mental health \$7,600,000; heart disease \$13,100,000; cancer \$7,900,000, and dental research \$1,400,000. These funds are needed to expedite answers to such critical problems as:

1. Mental Health can develop simple and accurate screening techniques to keep out of combat or key civil defense service not only those who already have mental disorders, but also those who will break mentally under various specific types of stress; tests to select soldiers or industrial workers for assignments equal to, but not exceeding, their highest capacities; and study problems of mass hysteria and its relation to adjustments of individuals under stress such as atomic attack, mass evacuation, or actual combat. In addition to expansion of the present training of specialists in mental health, there should be started immediately a system of short-term mental health training for general practitioners, health officers, nurses, ministers, teachers, and other community leaders so that they can recognize and give counsel for simple emotional problems before they reach the point of requiring expensive specialized care.
2. Heart Disease research can undertake a large-scale program for developing and preserving blood fractions, plasma and blood substitutes. It should develop improved surgical methods, such as arterial grafts, mechanical hearts and other devices to save lives and amputations of limbs in military and surgical cases. Heart circulation, blood, and blood vessel research are the keys to better surgery and the treatment of wounds, shock, burns, and radiation injury.
3. Cancer Research embraces practically every approach to the study of disease and human growth. Additional funds for cancer will be used to determine safeguards for military and civilian populations against radiation contamination and injury. Cancer studies include the effects of mustard gases and other poisons, and nutritional investigations such as ways to produce essential food proteins for intravenous injection in sustaining the ill or injured. Cancer scientists also would study the early identification of viruses and chemical and biological agents which might protect against such biological warfare.

IV.

There are today almost 300 worthy applications totalling 5.6 million for research, teaching and training and fellowships already approved or expecting approval which have not been paid because of lack of funds. They include projects and courses in all fields, many of which have direct relation to problems of defense and war.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cancer</u>	<u>Heart</u>	<u>Mental Health</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>General</u>
No. of applicant	795	40	54	139	19	343
Amount of money	\$5,598,753	\$22,133	\$1,068,013	\$1,526,076	\$101,149	\$2,381,382
States involved	41 and 1 territory and 6 foreign countries					

An estimated \$2,000,000 additional will meet the expected cost of meritorious prospects which will be submitted as soon as it is known that basic research funds are available.