THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 28, 1996

MEMORANDUM TO MACK MCLARTY

FROM: Jennifer Klein

CC: Carol Rasco

SUBJECT: Letter from Garry Mauro

Carol Rasco asked me to follow up on the attached letter that you received from Garry Mauro about a research proposal to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on breast cancer in the Ukraine. The proposal was submitted as what is called an "unsolicited proposal" by Baylor College of Medicine and the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation. USAID received a similar unsolicited proposal from a company called Technitron. Only 1% of USAID's grants are given through this process; the overwhelming majority are distributed through the normal "openly competitive process."

USAID has decided to handle both of these requests through the more favorable openly competitive process. Both groups have been asked to make certain changes to their proposals to conform to USAID requirements for research in the former USSR. Grant recipients will be announced by August 30.

Garry Mauro suggests in his letter that the President, Vice President and First Lady "know about this." Because this request is currently pending before USAID, the White House can not be involved in any USAID deliberations on the proposal.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do.

BREAST CANCER IN UKRAINE: ADDRESSING THE HIGHER RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHERNOBYL INCIDENT

A Proposal To
USAID Bureau for Europe and New Independent States

For a Two-Year Project to Provide
Technical Assistance and Training and
Facilitate Technology Transfer in Ukraine for
Breast Cancer Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

Submitted by:

Baylor College of Medicine
in association with
Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation
One Baylor Plaza, ST 924
Houston, Texas 77030

Proposed Program Director: Armin D. Weinberg, Ph.D. (713/798-4614)
Authorized Representative: Thomas E. Wilson (713/798-6970)

and

Ukrainian Research Center for Radiation Medicine
Kyyiv, Ukraine

Proposed Co-Program Director: Academician Anatoly E. Romanenko, MD

Funding Request: $1,848,290
Funding Agreement: Grant or Cooperative Agreement

April 22, 1996

April 22, 1996

Mr. Kevin Brownawell
ENI/PCS Unsolicited Proposals
3327A NS, USAID
Washington, DC 20523

BAYLOR
COLLEGE OF
MEDICINE

One Baylor Plaza
Texas Medical Center
Houston, Texas 77030

Dear Mr. Brownawell:

On behalf of Baylor College of Medicine, I am pleased to transmit this proposal to USAID for funding to provide technical assistance and training and facilitate technology transfer for breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment in Ukraine. The primary focus will be women diagnosed with, or at risk for, breast cancer potentially attributable to the Chernobyl power plant accident.

The total funding request is $1,848,290 for a 24-month project period. The type of funding agreement can be either a grant or cooperative agreement. We are prepared to begin the project within 90 days and anticipate a close working relationship with USAID/ENI staff in the planning and implementation of the project. This proposal is valid for six months.

We are pleased that our primary collaborator will be the Ukrainian Research Center for Radiation Medicine. As evidenced by Dr. Anatoly Romanenko's letter which appears on the next page, Baylor enjoys a productive and trusting relationship with the faculty and staff of this institution which began almost five years ago. The Center is responsible for all aspects relating to the health effects of the Chernobyl accident. Its director, Dr. Romanenko, was the Ukrainian Minister of Health at the time of the Chernobyl accident and continues to maintain close ties with the current Ministry of Health, Chernobyl Ministry, National Oncological Center, regional and national medical systems as well as leading political and intellectual figures in the Republic.

Baylor College of Medicine is an internationally renowned non-profit institution dedicated to medical research, education, training and health care delivery. Under the direction of Dr. Armin Weinberg, Baylor faculty and staff have gained considerable experience in carrying out projects in the New Independent States, particularly Ukraine, Kazakstan, Russia and Belarus. In addition, our affiliation with the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation has fostered close ties with physicians, researchers and technicians, who are recent immigrants from the NIS, bilingual, and retrained to Western standards - uniquely expanding our capacity to be of assistance in this region. Through the Foundation, we are able to propose the adaptation of a unique volunteer-driven patient education program as well.

We are very familiar with the outstanding AIHA US/NIS hospital partnerships, including those in Ukraine, since Baylor participates with The Methodist Hospital as the US hospital partner in Semipalatinsk. Because the activities proposed here may be of interest to AIHA, a copy of this proposal is being forwarded to Jim Smith under separate cover.

Dr. Weinberg will serve as Program Director for the proposed project. Dr. Romanenko will be the Co-Director. For technical and programmatic questions, please contact Dr. Weinberg at 713/798-4614. I am the authorized representative for Baylor with the authority to negotiate and contractually obligate the College. My telephone number is 713/798-6970.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Wilson
Director of Sponsored Research

cc. *Armin D. Weinberg, Ph.D.*

Академія медичних наук
України

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«___» _____ 19___ р. №_____
на №_____ «___» _____ 19___ р.

Dear Dr. Weinberg,

I am delighted to write this letter of support for our joint pilot project to screen, diagnose, and treat Chernobyl victims suffering from breast cancer. I believe this is an appropriate project to build on our collaboration established over the past several years. As you know we are the Institute designated to study the long-term health effects of the accident here in the Ukraine. Our facilities and staff are committed to taking the leadership in establishing a program for our country that will help effectively educate, screen and treat women who may be at higher risk for development of breast cancer due to their exposure.

The other organizations I will involve during the first phase of the project will be the Cancer Institute, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Chernobyl Affairs, and Education. I believe that this combination of participants will allow us to establish a broad based program to identify women most at risk, educate young women about breast cancer, upgrade our national cancer registry program, and implement professional education programs for physicians and nurses. This group will also be critical to the continuation of the program after the initial two years of funding.

Given the severe economic conditions we presently face it is extremely timely that such a program be undertaken that will blend our real concern for these women with our existing resources. Certainly the women enrolled at the institute already will be a good population to begin this effort. Another relevant population will be the CNNP workers that we help monitor and though smaller in number the women who served in the liquidation of the consequences of the accident. I do also agree that we will need to extend our training and tracking systems to the other health care facilities of the Ukraine in order to reach the majority of women who were exposed and have this concern.

I am also pleased that we can work together to evaluate modern diagnostics such as breast cancer gene tests, MRI and ultrasound that may play a role in the future early detection of breast cancer among the women involved. Mammography is important but given the potential for earlier occurrence in younger women its limits must be considered. This consultation and training certainly builds nicely our the work of Dr. Pyatak, Bebeshko, Lichtariov, and Bondar with your team at Baylor and our colleagues at Hadassah over the past years.

I am committed to having this type of program implemented and will gladly serve as Co-Director of the project with you.

I look forward to seeing you here in Kiev as always.

Sincerely,

A. Romanenko

TEXAS HADASSAH Medical Research Foundation

Affiliated Institutions
Hadassah Medical Organization, Jerusalem
The Methodist Health Care Network, Houston

April 18, 1996

Dear Dr. Weinberg,

It is with much excitement and commitment that I write this letter in support of this important project whose overall goal is to provide technical assistance and training and facilitate technology transfer for breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment in Ukraine.

The Board of Directors of the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation join me in offering the commitment of our volunteers to ensure the success of this project.

The Foundation Board members and volunteers will adapt, coordinate and implement a school based education initiative on breast cancer, targeted to young women of appropriate age designed to include their mothers and adult female relatives. The volunteers will draw from their experience from previous school based education programs and work directly with the Association of Chernobyl Physicians on site in the Ukraine.

It is our sincere hope that this will result in the Ukraine having a school based cancer education initiative that will be in place and ready for future nationwide expansion.

Over the past several years the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation set up an Immigrant Registry for those affected by the Chernobyl disaster. In our work with these immigrants, we saw the need for collaborative research and education efforts between the Texas medical community and Israeli counterparts at the Hadassah Medical Organization. This will ultimately lead us to enhancing medical research and education through joint efforts by premiere scientists that can be rapidly translated and applied to health care in the Ukraine.

As long-term committed supporters of Baylor College of Medicine, the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation leadership is pleased to be part of this important endeavor.

We look forward to a most successful collaboration between us with important results, and you may be certain that you can count on our utmost cooperation.

Sincerely,

Donna Shoham Tripp

Donna Shoham Tripp
Executive Director, THMRF

cc Board of Directors, THMRF

BREAST CANCER IN UKRAINE: ADDRESSING INCREASED RISK ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHERNOBYL INCIDENT

...$5,000,000 should be made available for a project to screen, diagnose and treat victims of breast cancer associated with the 1986 incident at the Chernobyl reactor in Ukraine.
- 104th Congress, First Session, Conference Report 104-295 to accompany H.R. 1868, page 8

ABSTRACT

Above and beyond the normal risk of breast cancer among Ukrainian women, the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986 created a new risk factor by exposing virtually millions of females to much higher than average levels of radioactivity. A half-century of research on Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors has established unequivocally that the highest attributable risk (31.9%) among all female survivors was at the breast site and that the risk is at least five times higher among women exposed at younger ages (Thompson et al. 1994). The potential impact of this adverse health effect on the medical, economic and political systems in Ukraine may be fully evident as early as the first decade of the next century, and is an important factor as USAID continues its efforts to build new democratic systems and better lives for the people of Ukraine.

For this reason and in response to the Congressional mandate stated above, Baylor College of Medicine and the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation propose to provide technical assistance and training and facilitate technology transfer to the Ukrainian Research Center for Radiation Medicine in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, National Oncological Center, Ministry of Education and other institutions as appropriate. Baylor will coordinate closely with other USAID projects in the Ukraine such as the AIHA hospital partnerships as well.

Specifically, we propose to work with our Ukrainian colleagues in adapting, translating and field testing proven Western programs and technologies in breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment with the goal of establishing a systematic, comprehensive model and infrastructure that can have broader outreach application to Ukrainian women in general. The proposed project is 24 months in duration and will yield the following major outcomes:

- Having initially targeted women exposed to radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear accident, there will be in place a breast cancer screening triage system ready for application on a nationwide basis;
- A national breast cancer registry and tracking program ready for national utilization;
- A cadre of Ukrainian researchers and health professionals will have been trained in new and rapidly emerging breast cancer screening and diagnostic technologies and will be prepared to train their colleagues in the appropriate application of these new methods, including making informed decisions regarding cost benefits and ethical considerations;
- A professional continuing education program on breast cancer will be in place for physicians and other health professionals, ready for expansion nationwide and/or adaptation for other cancer sites; and
- A school-based cancer education initiative, targeting students and their families, conducted by volunteers and school staff, will be in place and ready for nationwide expansion.

The project will be under the direction of Dr. Armin D. Weinberg at Baylor and Dr. Anatoly Romanenko at the Ukrainian Center. Dr. Weinberg has assembled an outstanding team of faculty, consultants and expert advisors, many of whom are fluent in Russian, have extensive experience working in the NIS, including Ukraine, on other technical assistance and/or collaborative research projects, particularly in the area of health effects of ionizing radiation. In addition, several on the team are immigrants from the region who have been retrained in Western methods and will be helpful in supervising training programs to ensure that information and technology transfer goals are being met. Many of the Baylor faculty and advisors will be contributing their time to this activity as will the Texas Hadassah Medical Research Foundation's volunteers and staff who will be working with the Ukrainian Chernobyl Physician's Association on the school-based education initiative. Dr. Romanenko has identified an outstanding core team as well, whose members will be paired with the appropriate individuals on the US team. Additional personnel will be identified at the start-up planning meeting with him in Kyyiv.

Baylor and Ukrainian Center staff, consultants and advisors will be organized into six teams: Screening Algorithm; Treatment, Patient Education and Services; Data Management and Coordinating Center; Professional Education; Public Education; and Emerging Screening and Diagnostic Technologies. The team leaders and other appropriate individuals will serve on a Steering Committee to oversee the development and implementation of the final work plan. With the exception of the training for eight Ukrainian fellows outside of Kyyiv and one team meeting in Houston, virtually all of the technical assistance and training will be done on-site in Ukraine as experience has shown that this approach enhances the potential to successfully achieve training and technology transfer objectives in NIS.