



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA
SEPTEMBER 12, 1936

~~SCHOLARSHIP~~

Negro Physicians

(Easterling, Ruth)

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Edwin R. Embree, Director
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

ERE	16	ERE	2
MOB		MOB	9/24
FCMS		FEND	0

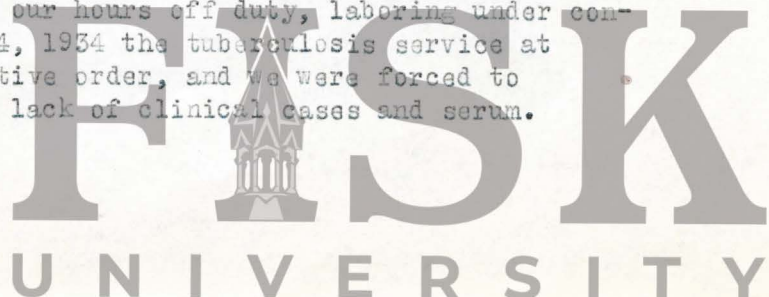
My dear Mr. Embree:

I am writing to ask for information concerning the granting of fellowships for research work. In reference thereto I incorporate in this letter a brief summary of my experience, and an outline of the work in which I am deeply interested.

I graduated from Tufts Medical College in 1921 and was licensed by the Massachusetts State Board of Medical Examiners by examination in 1921, and served one year general internship at the Metropolitan Hospital, New York City. Subsequent to that date I practiced medicine in Cambridge, Massachusetts from 1922 to 1928. At that time I became quite interested in the laboratory manifestations of disease and was associated with Dr. William A. Hinton, Director of Wassermann Laboratories in the State of Massachusetts, during the year 1928. For a period of two years I worked in the Boston Dispensary and Wassermann Laboratories in Boston, Massachusetts, during which time my interest was particularly drawn to the serological reactions of tuberculosis, with the ultimate aim of striking upon some means of making a serological diagnosis of this disease before the appearance of clinical or Roentgenological findings. At that time Dr. Hinton was engaged in this work on which he published the enclosed paper in collaboration with Miss Genevieve O. Stuart in 1930. Soon thereafter my association with Dr. Hinton ended due to my employment in the Laboratories of the Veterans' Administration Facility at Tuskegee, Alabama (October, 1931). Later Dr. Hinton was forced to abandon his work in tuberculous serology due to lack of funds.

In March, 1932 I discussed with Dr. John B. West, now District Health Officer in Central Harlem, New York City, the probability of carrying on this work at Tuskegee. Together we obtained permission from the Veterans' Administration to proceed with our work. For a period of approximately two years we continued this experimentation, often at our own expense, during our hours off duty, laboring under considerable difficulty. On July 24, 1934 the tuberculosis service at Tuskegee was terminated by executive order, and we were forced to suspend our investigation due to lack of clinical cases and serum.

SEP 29 1936



Now I am particularly desirous of beginning our work anew and appeal to you for financial assistance.

I am employed at present as a serologist and bacteriologist at the Veterans' Administration Facility, Tuskegee, Alabama, and have no other means of support. If I could obtain a grant to continue this work, unhampered by routine examinations, I feel that progress would be assured. The plan has been discussed with Dr. Poindexter at Howard University, and he is very enthusiastic about it, feeling that such a project, particularly if successful, would greatly benefit the Howard University School of Medicine. He has agreed to cooperate with Dr. West and me in providing laboratory facilities, technical apparatus and assistance. The matter is now in the hands of Dr. Numa P. G. Adams, Dean of Howard University School of Medicine.

Dr. Hans Zinsser, Dr. William A. Hinton, Dr. E. E. Just, Mr. G. J. Drolet, Dr. Peyton Anderson, and Dr. Charles S. Johnson have been approached for a comment on the possibilities of this work, and all of them seem to be in hearty accord with its being pushed on to completion. After a communication from Dr. Johnson of Fisk University, I feel more certain that, as a Negro, I should try to complete this work in a Negro institution, and that my best source of financial support lies in your hands.

I trust that this letter will suffice to give you a rough idea of my background and aspirations, and sincerely hope it will be possible for you to assist me in carrying on what is the most important subject in my professional perspective.

Sincerely yours,

Ruth M. Easterling (M.D.)

Ruth M. Easterling, M. D.