

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL HARLEM HEALTH DISTRICT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

Negro Physicians
SCHOLARSHIP

(Easterling, Dr)

HEALTH CENTER
108 WEST 136TH STREET

September 24, 1936

TEL. EDG. 4-2542

Dr. M. O. Bousfield
Associate Director
Julius Rosenwald Fund
4901 Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

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Dear Dr. Bousfield:

Thank you for your letter of September 21st. It is very gratifying to know that you are interested in our problem, and I shall attempt briefly to answer the specific questions you have asked.

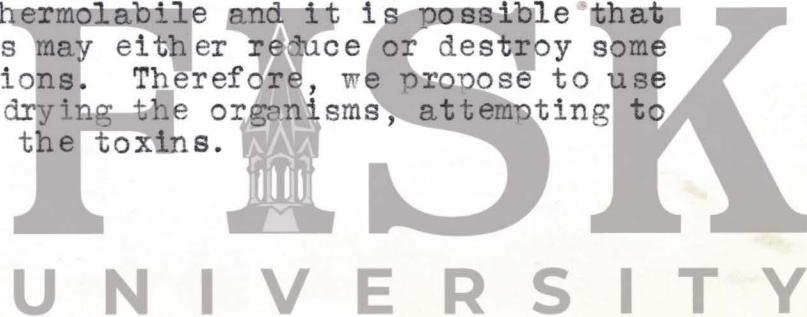
Briefly it may be said that the work with which we have experimented deals with the continuation and improvements on the Hinton Glycerol Cholesterol Reaction in Tuberculosis. We have completed a series of 500 serological examinations with fair results, as may be seen from the enclosed paper which has not yet been released. This paper comes to you as advance information.

For our future work we have outlined a series of experiments which are an attempt to standardize the reaction and to prove that it is valuable or worthless. We, along with Hinton, Zinsser et al, believe this reaction to have great possibilities. As was the case with various serological cases of diagnosing syphilis, numerous variable factors enter into the equation, and it is our plan to try different combinations of factors based on the underlying principles of specific agglutination. Following is an extract from our protocol.

1) Culture: Inasmuch as the growth of bacilli radiates from nuclear patches planted on the surface of the culture medium, we propose to dry the bacilli at 37.5° C. over carbon dioxide to prevent oxidation, then sprinkle the organisms from a sterile tube over the surface of the liquid, thus providing thousands of nuclei instead of a few. We hope that this will shorten materially the \times to seven week period of incubation.

2) Killing and drying: Portions of the endotoxin derived from the tubercle bacilli are thermolabile and it is possible that exposure to 55° C. for four days may either reduce or destroy some of the lower thermolabile fractions. Therefore, we propose to use varying methods of killing and drying the organisms, attempting to avoid the destruction of any of the toxins.

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- 3) Cholesterinization: The use of varying concentrations of cholesterin and other similar substances to ascertain what concentration of what chemical best reacts to tuberculous serum.
- 4) Indicator: Continuation of experiments with production of indicator and titration for standard usage.
- 5) Inactivation: Temperature and time variation to ascertain best combination to destroy natural complement in human sera.
- 6) A series of tests on each final indicator for later comparative studies to ascertain the best routine from culture to reading.

It is probable that this work would consume a period of three to five years, and if a fellowship of \$3,000 per annum were granted, would entail the expenditure of \$15,000 over a period of five years.

During a talk with Dr. Poindexter at Howard University he assured me that the institution could provide ample laboratory and incubator space and a moderate amount of standard equipment. He has further agreed, pending the approval of Dean Adams, to furnish laboratory assistance to clean and sterilize glassware, etc.

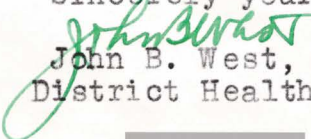
With reference to tuberculosis patients, Freedmen's Hospital is to open a new tuberculosis service in the near future, and this should fit in very well with our proposed program. Further, the close cooperation between hospital and teaching units is decidedly in favor of the project.

Undeniably this will be an extensive study, the scope of which may only be estimated, but this is no greater than the studies conducted in luetic serology, and we sincerely hope that we may have an opportunity to complete this work under the flag of a Negro institution.

I hope this will give you an idea of the proposed experiments, the estimated cost and duration of such a study, but if any questions arise you will always find me anxious to answer them, for my interest in the progress of this work does not wane.

Thanking you for your interest and cooperation and for anything you may find it possible to do for us, I remain

Sincerely yours,


John B. West, M.D.
District Health Officer

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