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Working Group Feb. 4-5 '91 Washington DC

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Building :
Room :
(301) 496-

DEC 17 1990

Mr. Lex Frieden
Executive Director
TIRR Foundation
5100 Travis
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. ^{Lex}Frieden:

I would like to express my appreciation to you for agreeing to serve as a member of the Working Group on Medical Rehabilitation Research Training. The Working Group will meet February 4-5, 1991, at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Building 31, Conference Room 4, and will be co-chaired by Drs. John F. Ditunno, Jr., Chairman, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University and Dr. Marcus Fuhrer, Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, Baylor College of Medicine.

The Working Group is being established in response to a recommendation by the Task Force on Medical Rehabilitation Research which met at Hunt Valley, Maryland, June 28-29, 1990. The Task Force was convened by the NIH to develop a comprehensive research plan for medical rehabilitation research. One of the panels of that Task Force, the Panel on Basic and Clinical Research Training, recommended that the NIH establish a subsequent working group to identify new training programs and expand existing ones to increase the number of active researchers in medical rehabilitation.

Since the meeting of the Task Force, the President has signed into law (P.L. 101-613) the National Institutes of Health Amendments of 1990, creating a National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Consequently, the deliberations of the Working Group and its subsequent report will be an important resource to the NICHD in implementing the new legislation.

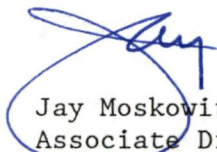
In preparation for the February 4-5 meeting, I am enclosing some background materials including the mandate for the Working Group (Tab A), the membership list (Tab B), and a proposed schedule for the drafting of the report (Tab C). Also enclosed at Tab D are three reports: a prepublication copy of the *Report of the Task Force on Medical Rehabilitation Research*; the *1990 Report of the Advisory Committee to the Director, NIH, on Medical Rehabilitation Research*; and the *1989 Report of the Panel on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Research*. The agenda for the meeting will be developed in concert with the NICHD. It and further briefing materials will be forwarded to you at a later time and well in advance of the February meeting. If you have any questions related to the meeting of the Working Group or the materials provided you, please call me at 301-496-3152 or Dr. Suzanne Medgyesi-Mitschang at 301-496-1454.

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Information regarding the meeting site, transportation arrangements, accommodations, and other administrative details will be forwarded to you by our conference support coordinator, Editorial Experts, Inc. (EEI). Any questions regarding travel or lodging arrangements, should be directed to the EEI liaison for this conference, Ms. Jackie Brockman, at (703) 683-0683.

Once again, thank you for agreeing to serve as a member of the Working Group on Medical Rehabilitation Research Training. The convening of the Working Group represents the continuing commitment of the NIH to ensure an enhanced scientific environment for research related to medical rehabilitation and the evolution of biomedical research in all its diversity. I look forward to a very productive meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay", is written over a circular blue ink stamp.

Jay Moskowitz, Ph.D.
Associate Director for
Science Policy and Legislation

Enclosures

WORKING GROUP ON MEDICAL REHABILITATION RESEARCH TRAINING

MANDATE

The Task Force on Medical Rehabilitation Research noted that rehabilitation medicine is an emerging scientific discipline at a "critical stage of development and opportunity." Progress in basic, clinical, and applied rehabilitation research is expected to have significant impact upon the development of medical therapies and services to ensure independence and a high quality of life for individuals with disabilities. However, the field thus far has not attracted the body of researchers necessary to achieve this impact. Furthermore, since this area of research is primarily clinically based, current training of researchers in scientific research techniques tends to be inadequate. Consequently, there is an acute need to develop a critical mass of trained researchers for this field to realize its full potential.

The general mandate of the Working Group on Medical Rehabilitation Research Training is to review multiple ways of enhancing research training in medical rehabilitation to strengthen the scientific foundation of this area of medicine. Specifically, the Working Group will:

- review and identify existing NIH training and research award mechanisms that would promote increasing opportunities for single-investigator and collaborative interdisciplinary studies in rehabilitation medicine;
- recommend steps the NIH can take to encourage greater participation by the rehabilitation medicine research community in competing for existing research and training awards;
- identify new research training programs and expand existing ones to increase the number of new and established investigators entering the field of medical rehabilitation and increase the diversity of research specialties represented in the field;
- propose training approaches to support early research training of students in graduate schools and medical schools related to the field of rehabilitation research;
- develop incentives to attract senior investigators in rehabilitation related disciplines to actively pursue research in medical rehabilitation; and
- emphasize high-priority training needs in the field of rehabilitation medicine to be addressed by existing and proposed award mechanisms.

MEMBERSHIP
OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON MEDICAL REHABILITATION RESEARCH TRAINING

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WORKING GROUP MEETING
AND
PROPOSED REPORT DRAFTING SCHEDULE

Meeting of the Working Group on
Medical Rehabilitation Research
Training

February 4-5, 1991

Draft Report Completed by
Science Writer

Week of Feb. 19

Draft Report Mailed by NIH to
Working Group Members for Review
and Comment

Week of Feb. 19

Review of Draft Report by
Working Group

Feb. 25-March 8

Comments Due to Working Group
Co-chairs and Science Writer

March 8

Second Draft of Report Completed
by Science Writer

March 15

Final Report Mailed to Working
Group for Approval

March 18

Working Group Approval of Report
Received by the Co-chairs and
Dr. Moskowitz

March 22

Report of the Working Group on
Medical Rehabilitation Research
Training Available for General
Distribution

April 2, 1991