

August 13, 1959

Sir Henry Dale  
The Wellcome Trust  
52, Queen Anne Street  
London W. 1  
England

Dear Sir Henry:

This letter is to supplement the conversation with you and Dr. Greene on July 15th, in London.

Next October, the Montreal Neurological Institute will celebrate its first quarter century. It is hoped that what has been accomplished may justify an increased endowment of neurological research there at that time. This hope is based on the belief that the nervous system of man constitutes a field of study just as vast as any other field of scientific research and far more important to man. Constructive advance must depend on long continued coordinated effort.

Dr. Rasmussen and I hope that there may be established a fund which would provide for a continuation of the active relationship between this Institute and British science, which has contributed so much to our evolution during the past quarter century. Because of my own training in Oxford and London, this has been maintained in the past by various means.

The need is to be able to send men from the M. N. I. to work in physiology, biochemistry, neurology, etc. in Great Britain or, alternatively, to bring workers for periods of study and research from laboratories and hospitals of Great Britain to the Institute for scientific work in our laboratories or wards.

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A fellowship fund that would provide \$5,000 a year permanently, or over a 20 year's period as a trial, could be established. All candidates for this fellowship should be nominated by the Director of the M. N. I. Those going to Great Britain would require also the approval of Dean or Principal of McGill University. Those coming to Montreal should have the approval of the Wellcome Foundation.

Let me cite examples to illustrate the present call for such a fund.

For example, an excellent young neurosurgeon, Mr. Gossman, on the staff of Mr. Rowbotham of Newcastle, is working here now on a single travel grant which Mr. Rowbotham secured after a long effort. Gossman brought his wife and two-months old baby. We discovered that she has helped their meagre funds by doing some nursing at the Institute while he sits at home with the baby!

Gabriel Horn, neurophysiologist from Cambridge, spent last year on funds which we secured from Mr. Bronfman here. Leonard Wolfe, New Zealand biochemist, is working at the Maudsley Hospital in London on a Canadian National Research Council Fellowship to prepare him to return as K.A.C. Elliott's assistant in Neurochemistry. Dr. McNaughton, Neurologist-in-Chief, considers going on a sabbatical six months of study.

There is a constant call for help of this sort now. A fellowship fund of this sort, with complete flexibility as to time and rate of expenditure, at the discretion of the M. N. I. Director would, over the years, make the scientific work of this Institute almost as much British as it is Canadian. But there should be no limitation in appointments as to nationality.

In any case, such a fund and the use of such fellowships would make the bond with British science which has been so strong and so helpful during the past twenty-five years permanent.

We would be glad to make more detailed proposals. I have discussed the matter with Principal James, who approves. An informative supplementary note is added to this letter and an annual report is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Director of the Montreal  
Neurological Institute and  
Chairman of the Department of Neurology  
and Neurosurgery of McGill University

## Supplementary Note

The Montreal Neurological Institute belongs to McGill University and is controlled by the University through the Director and Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery \* and his senior associates in the Institute:

- 1) Professor of Experimental Neurology, Herbert Jasper
- 2) Professor of Neurology, Francis McNaughton
- 3) Professor of Neurosurgery, William Feindel
- 4) Assistant Director, Hospitalization, Preston Robb.

The Institute is adjacent to, and closely integrated with, all the general departments of the Royal Victoria Hospital. There are 136 beds for neurology and neurosurgery of all types in the Institute, supported by hospital income and "permanent" annual grants from Province and City.

The scientific support derived from permanent endowments, (which amount to over two and a half million dollars,) and from grants, is entirely separate from the clinical budget. With the scientific work permanently endowed, it seems likely that the public will always support the public and private beds whatever the changing relationship of Government and Hospital may be in Canada's future.

\* Theodore Rasmussen is Deputy Director, and Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery now. On my retirement he will be Director.