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CTR  
Project - Macdonald  
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January 28, 1976

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*M. Mac*



Re: Miss Eleanor Macdonald

Gentlemen:

Eleanor Macdonald has requested continuation of support for her current CTR Special Project in the amount of \$68,790. Copies of the Request for Continuation and Budget are attached together with a copy of her report on the current status of the study. We recommend approval of this request.

The current one year Special Project was scheduled to begin in September, 1974. However, as a consequence of her demanding role as a Chairperson at the IX International Pigment Cell Conference, held in Houston in early 1975, the beginning of her project was, by agreement, postponed until March, 1975. She has made significant progress in her work but has realized that more time is needed to accomplish her goals.

Miss Macdonald has collected three complementary sets of data: (1) U.S. death rates from cancer and other major diseases from 1940-1969; (2) cancer deaths in certain Texas regions over a period of approximately 23 years; and (3) deaths in Houston, Texas, from all causes from 1942-1970. The past year's Special Project support has enabled her to begin development of highly sophisticated models for determining which of approximately 350 variables (e.g., racial stock, exposure to a particular air pollutant, etc.) are most strongly associated with these death rates. The procedures involved in developing these models have been long and highly complex

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for many reasons -- including the many variables under study, and the large number of deaths and the long time periods involved. Further, the project demands a high level of statistical analysis and requires extensive data transformations. Since March, 1975, Miss Macdonald has been fortunate in having the help of Dr. Dorothy Wellington, a highly respected and experienced biometrician, in the analysis of the data.

We are informed that Miss Macdonald has found a very strong association between air pollution exposure and the incidence of lung cancer in approximately half of the cases. She has submitted an article summarizing this data to Science, and we are advised that it has been accepted pending some revisions. Also, in early March she will present a paper "Demographic Variations in Cancer in Relation to Industrial and Environmental Influence" at a symposium sponsored by the World Health Organization and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. That paper, which contains a more extensive coverage of the air pollution material, should be published in the conference proceedings about three months later.

Miss Macdonald is proceeding with her plan to publish a book on the epidemiology of cancer, which will contain a discussion of the apparently significant effect of air pollution.

We recommend funding this proposal as a continuation of her current CTR Special Project, because, in our view, after many years of effort spent in gathering and computerizing the data Miss Macdonald is now in a position to make a significant contribution to the literature. Since current funding will terminate on February 29, 1976 and Miss Macdonald must make salary commitments to her staff, we would appreciate being advised of your decision at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Donald K. Hoel

DKH:ps  
Enc.

cc: Joseph Greer, Esq.  
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