Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
Children's Hospital Research Foundation  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Sabin:

In accordance with the suggestions of most of the Study Sections of the National Institute of Health, which have been established to stimulate additional important research and to insure adequate scientific review of the applications submitted for grants in aid, we have prepared a preliminary draft of the type of material which we felt should be transmitted to all graduate and medical schools of the country. Because of the volume of requests from interested applicants and university authorities, greatly increased as a result of notices that have appeared in various publications as to the formation of specific Sections, it has been deemed advisable to mimeograph enough copies of this preliminary draft to permit transmittal today of several copies to each of these schools.

Before printing a final draft of such information we should appreciate very much having the benefit of your comments and criticisms, including suggestions for revisions, deletions, or additions. We cannot assure each consultant, of course, that all suggestions can be incorporated, particularly in view of the fact that approximately 150 members of Study Sections will probably have constructive ideas, some of which may well be in conflict. It will be helpful if these comments can be transmitted at some time prior to November 15 so that the final draft can be presented to the National Advisory Health Council at its December 6-7 meeting.

It would be helpful, further, to the Research Grants Division and those of us concerned at the National Institute of Health if you would give us a statement as to your frank opinion of the grant-in-aid program as conducted. Constructive criticisms at this initial stage of the program might prove extremely beneficial. We are particularly concerned with your reaction to the philosophy, first, "that in the conduct of the program there should be no governmental control, direction, or regimentation of the scientific investigation," and second, "that the Research Grants Division shall serve only in an administrative-assistance capacity, with complete scientific guidance vested in the various Special Study Sections."

Sincerely yours,

Ernest M. Allen  
Assistant Chief  
Research Grants Division

Enclosure