

DIVISION OF CHRONIC DISEASES RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

The objective of the Research Grant Program of the Division of Chronic Diseases is to develop the research necessary to provide the information, knowledge, and techniques to expedite the translation of medical knowledge into health services for the chronically ill and aged in the communities of the Nation. This type of research is generally of a highly practical or applied nature and may involve field or survey research, operations research, and systems development. The Research Training Program has as its objective, to develop investigators who have the competency to carry out the needed research.

The ultimate objective is to develop community health services which are oriented to prevention of chronic diseases; provision of the best therapy; and for advanced cases of chronic disease the latest methods of rehabilitation or restoration to a functional state of health.

In terms of an "investment in people," the entire program can be considered this type of investment. The program seeks to insure through the use of the latest medical knowledge that individuals live a healthy life free from the disability associated with chronic diseases.

2. Operation

The program operates as a grant-in-aid program to non-profit institutions which are capable of performing research in chronic disease problems. The proposal for a project is the idea of an independent investigator. He describes his idea in an application which is reviewed for scientific merit by his peers who are scientists acting as consultants to the Public Health Service. The projects with the highest priorities are paid as the funds allow.

3. History

The Study Group on Mission and Organization of the Public Health Service recommended in 1960 that the Bureau of State Services—Community Health should provide a focus for research on the application of fundamental observation in the biological and medical sciences, and on the organization, financing, and delivery of comprehensive health services.¹

In order to implement this recommendation it was suggested that the authority to support research grants should be extended to the Divisions of the Bureau.

In fiscal year 1963, a group of 36 separate research projects which had been previously supported at the National Institutes of Health were transferred to the Division of Chronic Diseases. These grants had been identified as applied chronic disease research rather than basic medical research. The total funds to support those grants in the fiscal year 1963 was \$1,158,633.

Since the transfer of the original group of grants, the program has sought to develop needed areas of research and has supported 9 new grants in fiscal year 1964 and 18 new grants in fiscal year 1965.

¹ Final Report of Study Group on Mission and Organization of the Public Health Service, 1960, p. 31.