



Medical College of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University

June 10, 1985

Mr. Perry Chapdelaine
The Rheumatoid Disease Foundation
Route 4, Box 137
Franklin, TN 37064

and

John Simoons, Ph.D.
Sandor Research Corporation
5140 Revere Road
Durham, NC 27713

Dear Perry and John,

Enclosed is a request on the part of Richard Franson whose curriculum vitae and appropriate reprints are enclosed and which you have received previously.

Dr. Franson has been doing really elegant work in regard to inhibition and mechanisms of action for the phospholipase A_2 which may be the fundamental trigger of inflammation.

The phospholipase A_2 produces inflammatory substances through its action on the arachnoidic-leukatrienes system and its place may be extremely fundamental in broad areas that relate to tissue damage, i.e., shock and, most recently, Dr. Liotta at the National Cancer Institute, has shown it to play a role in tumor metastases. Phospholipase A_2 is the "killer enzyme" that destroys cell membranes.

It is of particular interest that protozoacides and fungicides such as the clotrimazole/imidazoles dramatically inhibit this enzyme, i.e., Naegleria and thus it could be that the phospholipase A_2 activity may be important in the pathogenesis and the growth of organisms like Naegleria, fungi and other pathogenic organisms.

What Dick Franson is doing is absolutely fundamental and gives added identity to the Rheumatoid Disease Foundation relevant to its search for new concepts and alternatives that distinguish it from other fund raising groups.

I have talked to Robert Turner and he is very much interested in working with Richard Franson (who trained under Waite at Bowman Gray) and has invited him for a seminar and discussions of joint activities. What can simply be done is for neutrophils in patients with rheumatoid disease to be tested by

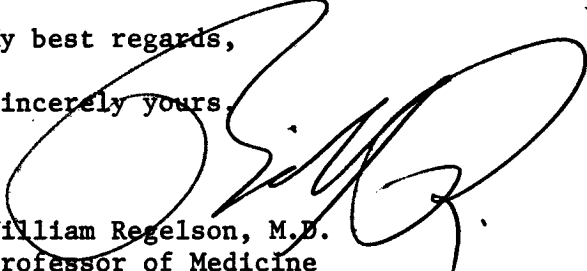
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Richard Franson for phospholipase A₂ activity with or without clotrimazole systemic administration (Turner has shown that neutrophils show migration inhibition in rheumatoid disease). It would be of interest to see if clotrimazole action on leukocytes alters phospholipase A₂ and/or migration patterns.

We have the focus of a good program, certainly Franson's work here adds dramatically to that of Dr. Susskind and I think is worthy of support.

Hoping to see you in Alabama. My best regards,

Sincerely yours,



William Regelson, M.D.
Professor of Medicine

WR/e

CC: Dr. Gaylen Bradley
Dr. Richard Franson