

April 17, 1939

Archib S. Woods, Esq.,
The John and Mary R. Markle Foundation,
14 Wall Street,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Woods:

With regard to the two points raised in your letter of April 15, namely the merit of the work proposed by Dr. Greenberg and his ability to direct it, I have made inquiries from several sources on both of these.

I think there is little doubt that Dr. Greenberg is qualified to direct the proposed work in a skilful manner. I don't know him personally but inquiries among biochemists disclose that he enjoys a high reputation.

The projects themselves we have thought about here somewhat and it seems to us that they are thoroughly worth while, but not highly imaginative or original. It impresses us that the man is trying to find a good use to which to put a unique method rather than finding a method to solve a burning question. I believe that it is rather different from the situation here with regard to iodine. Our primary interest was in iodine metabolism and when it became apparent that there might be radioactive isotopes of iodine, it at once occurred to Hertz that we might make use of them to solve a problem that we were already working on. Indeed, we got going on radioactive isotopes of short half length almost before we heard of such an instrument as a cyclotron. In other words, iodine was the primary item here, whereas in California the cyclotron is the primary item and they are trying to think up ways to use it. None of these opinions is intended to deter you from making the grant. Indeed, I think you should make it. I think the originators of the cyclotron deserve to have grants made toward the use of the instrument in the solving of biologic problems.

Sincerely yours,

JHM: EAL

J. H. Keana

Archie S. Woods, Esq - #2

April 17, 1930

P. S.: We have found that my former house officer, Dr. Mayo Soley, now on the staff of the University Hospital, San Francisco, is working on radioactive iodine. He has the advantage of us at the moment in that the cyclotron out there is working and the one here isn't yet. I feel that Hertz and Roberts deserve a great deal of credit in getting some pioneer work done without a cyclotron and I feel that as soon as the cyclotron here is available we can progress very rapidly, having the ground work done. Also, having available Salter, who is an expert on thyroglobulin, puts us in a uniquely strategic position.