

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D C 20523

DATE: 5/4/88

MEMORANDUM

TO: AID/PPC/CDIE/DI, room 209 SA-18
FROM: AID/SCI, Victoria Ose *VO*
SUBJECT: Transmittal of AID/SCI Progress Report(s)

Attached for permanent retention/proper disposition is the following:

AID/SCI Progress Report No. 6. 309
Initial PR

Attachment

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6. 309

This document represents the initial progress report for USAID grant #DPE-5542-G-SS7059-00, "Molecular Diagnostics for Filarial Nematodes in Mosquito Vectors". This covers the first six month (August 28, 1987-February 28, 1988) reporting period.

Progress to date on this project has admittedly been minimal. This is due to several independent reasons. I was not informed that my grant was approved for funding, nor were funds for this project made available until October, 1987 (attached document #1). This resulted in a loss of two months time during this particular reporting period. Acquisition of equipment, hiring of relevant personnel, and purchase of gerbils infected with Brugia pahangi was substantially delayed.

48 B. pahangi-infected gerbils were ordered from Dr. John McCall, University of Georgia, via the National Institutes of Health. The first shipment was promised in mid-February. To date, the gerbils have not arrived. However, with the materials present in our existing animal colony, we have been able to assess the yield of mitochondrial DNA available from nematodes populating single gerbil hosts. We routinely have been obtaining approximately 0.5 ml of packed nematodes from the peritoneal cavity. This material has been stockpiled, awaiting the isolation of nematodes on a large scale upon receipt of the infected gerbils. Karen Dodson, a graduate student in Dr. E. G. Platzer's laboratory who is studying surface antigen changes on filarial nematodes during the infection process, is assisting me with harvesting the nematodes.

I have been in contact with Dr. R. Sivakanesan of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. This individual is my international collaborator on this project as approved by USAID. Although I have made several efforts to contact him after the grant was awarded, he has responded only within the last week. Copies of this correspondence are attached. Given that we are immersed in the development of techniques for the extraction and purification of intact filarial nematode mitochondrial DNA, collection of additional samples at this point would encumber our efforts. It would not be prudent to attempt mitochondrial DNA isolation on rare samples that are available in limited amounts. I prefer to refine this methodology on B. pahangi and then apply it to the samples that Dr. Sivakanesan can provide. Therefore, I shall obtain information from the Sri Lanka laboratory regarding the types and amounts of samples that can be provided, and how they might be shipped. I shall also urge Dr. Sivakanesan to plan a visit to our laboratory to learn how to isolate and clone nematode mitochondrial DNA, and to use these reagents in the molecular diagnostics assays that we have developed.

While results have been modest to this point, I fully anticipate accelerated productivity during the next research period. As this is the first progress report I have written for USAID, I hope that the format and content meet the necessary requirements.

Bradley C. Hyman

Bradley C. Hyman
Principle Investigator

March 23, 1988

Rec'd In SCI: MAR 28 1988

Document
#1

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20523

AUG 28 1987

Ms. M. Jeanne Thornburg, Manager
Contracts and Grants
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, California 92521

Subject: Specific Support Grant No. DPE-5542-G-SS-7059-00

Dear Ms. Thornburg:

Pursuant to the authority contained in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, the Agency for International Development (hereinafter referred to as "A.I.D." or "Grantor") hereby grants to the University of California, Riverside (hereinafter referred to as "UCR" or "Grantee") the sum of \$150,000 to provide assistance and support of a research program to improve upon the epidemiological approach to filarial nematode control in mosquito vectors, as more fully described in Attachment 1 of this Grant entitled "Schedule" and Attachment 2 entitled "Program Description."

This Grant is effective and obligation is made as of the date of this letter and shall apply to commitments made by the Grantee in furtherance of program objectives for the period August 28, 1987 through the estimated completion date of August 27, 1989. Funds disbursed by A.I.D. but uncommitted by the Grantee at the expiration of this period shall be refunded to A.I.D.

This Grant is made to the Grantee on condition that the funds will be administered in accordance with the terms and conditions as set forth in this Cover Letter, Attachment 1 entitled "Schedule", Attachment 2 entitled "Program Description", and Attachment 3 entitled "Standard Provisions", which together constitute the complete Grant document and have been agreed to by your organization.

Please acknowledge your receipt and acceptance of this grant by signing the original and all copies of this Cover Letter in the space provided below. Thereafter, please retain one copy for your files and return the original and all remaining copies to this office. Please ensure that all copies stamped "Funds Available" are returned.

Sincerely yours,

Joyce E. Frame

Joyce E. Frame
Grant Officer
Health and Population Branch
A.I.D./W Projects Division
Office of Procurement

Attachments:

1. Schedule
2. Program Description
3. Standard Provisions

ACKNOWLEDGED:

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA - RIVERSIDE

BY: *M. Jeanne Thornburg*

TYPED NAME: M. Jeanne Thornburg

TITLE: Manager, Contracts and Grants

DATE: OCT 16 1987

FISCAL DATA

A. General

Total Estimated Grant Amount:	\$150,000
Total Obligated Amount:	\$150,000
Project No.:	956-5542
A.I.D. Project Officer:	A.I.D./SCI, I. Asher
A.I.D. Cognizant Technical Officer:	S&T/H, V. Barbiero
Funding Source:	A.I.D./W
DUNS No.:	07-313-04777

B. SPECIFIC

PIO/T No.:	7361212
Appropriation:	72-1171021.6
Allotment:	746-36-099-00-19-71
BPC:	DDSA-87-10600-KG11
Amount:	\$150,000
Proposal No.:	6.309
Grant No.:	DPE-5542-G-SS-7059-00

Please note date in which I was notified and funds became available.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

FEB 12 1988
Public Health Service

*A read
for your records.*
BT

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Building : *WW*
Room : 737
(301) 496- 2544

February 12, 1988

Dr. E. G. Platzer
Department of Nematology
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521

Dear Dr. Platzer:

We have received your request for filarial material from the University of Georgia. This material is available for research purposes only, through a contract funded by this office.

Your requisition has been approved and forwarded to the University of Georgia and you should receive the materials in several weeks.

We hope that you will find these materials useful in your research. The acknowledgment of this source may be made in any scientific articles resulting from this research as follows: "Materials used in this study were provided by an NIAID supply contract (AI #02642), U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program."

Sincerely yours,

Stephanie L. James

Stephanie L. James, Ph.D.
Parasitology Program Officer
Parasitology and Tropical
Diseases Branch
National Institute of Allergy
and Infectious Diseases

4



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521

October 14, 1987

Dr. R. Sivakanesan
Department of Biochemistry
Faculty of Medicine
University of Peradeniya
SRI LANKA

Dear Dr. Sivakanesan:

Thank you for your letter of September 12, 1987. I am delighted to tell you that on October 13, 1987, I received formal notification that my USAID grant (#6.309) has been funded. Within the budget, there are funds for us to travel to each other's laboratories once per year for the next two years.

My initial approach to Brugian filarioid mitochondrial DNA is to develop extraction and purification procedures. We are currently obtaining gerbils infected with B. pahangi for this purpose. Once this initial step is accomplished, it would be a most appropriate time for you to visit my laboratory to directly observe applications of recombinant DNA to filarial diagnostics.

In our future correspondence, perhaps we could seriously consider the mechanics of setting up visitations. In addition, perhaps we can discuss how we might obtain samples of filarial worms from you so that we may begin mitochondrial DNA analysis.

I am sorry for not contacting you sooner, but word regarding funding for this project only arrived yesterday. I am now eager to begin this project and look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bradley C. Hyman".

Bradley C. Hyman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology

BCH:dd

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521

January 29, 1988

Dr. R. Sivakanesan
Department of Biochemistry
Faculty of Medicine
University of Peradeniya
SRI LANKA

Dear Dr. Sivakanesan:

This correspondence represents a "follow-up" to my letter of October 14, 1987, in which I informed you of the grant awarded by USAID. In that letter, I suggested we consider the mechanics for possible visits to our laboratories. As I have not yet heard from you, I thought it appropriate to contact you again.

I am most happy to have you named as an International Collaborator on this grant. I feel your expertise will greatly benefit this research program. I hope that you will consider this letter an impetus to arrange visits in the near future for the purpose of designing experiments and exchanging samples.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future regarding the status of our pending collaboration.

Sincerely,

Bradley C. Hyman

Bradley C. Hyman, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology

BCH:dd



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UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA, SRI LANKA

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Date }

Dept. of Biochemistry,
Faculty of Medicine,
Peradeniya, SRI LANKA.

1988.02.19.

Dr. Bradley Hyman,
Dept. of Biology, Riverside,
California, 92521, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Hyman,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 29, January 1988, which I received this morning. I have just finished my consultation with Prof. S.T. Fernando, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine & Animal Sciences, who is also happened to be the Professor of Veterinary Parasitology, on the aspect of using his laboratory facilities for our research program. Prof. Fernando is embarking on a Project involving E-S antigens of Toxocara canis, a project to be funded by the University of Cambridge, under the Cambridge link. He is a very senior Professor with many years of research experience in the field of Parasitic Immunology. I feel that our association with Professor Fernando will further strengthen the program. Professor Fernando stated that a new laboratory for his Molecular Biology program will be ready in June this year.

In one of my earlier correspondence, I mentioned about Prof. S. Dissanayake and his research activities. I am sure Prof. Dissanayake will extend his fullest co-operation towards our project. It is possible, sometimes, that the work could be even carried out in his laboratory. However, Prof. Fernando's laboratory is better equipped and less crowded.

Regarding the proposed visitation to the laboratories, you can come here at any time. I will be most happy to take you around and show you the limited facilities we have. Perhaps, you may think of strengthening the research facilities once you visit our laboratories.

As for the sample collection, are you only interested in filarial arthropod vectors or do you need any filarial parasites, microfilariae etc.? When I was in London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, I used frozen unfixed Onchocerca volvulus nodules, O. gutturosa worms, O. gibsoni nodules and Brugia pahangi from Jirds. Some of these specimens could be still obtainable from Dr. C.D. Mackenzie, if I write to him. He used to travel to U.S.A. very often. So, please let me know. Locally we have plenty of Setaria digitata from cattle.

As for the actual collection of the specimens, could you let me have some details regarding storage, processing etc. If I commence the collection early and process the specimens, you will be in a position to take it with you when you return. I hope, I have given you enough information on which you can work out the future plans regarding the project.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. R. Sivakanesan.

Prof. S.T. Fernando,
Dean/Vet. Medicine.