

January 28, 1966

Mr. Marshall A. Shearouse
Chief Trust Officer
C & S Bank
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Mr. Shearouse:

As you know, Mrs. Grace Ensor Brown, in her last Will and Testament, provided that a trust fund be established and that the income from it be used for mental health research. The fund was set up as a memorial to her late father, Joshua Fulton Ensor, M.D., one time superintendent of S. C. State Hospital, and her mother, Mrs. Henrietta Kemp Ensor. Later the trust fund was enlarged by contributions from others. For a number of years the trust fund was in charge of a self-perpetuating board of trustees. More recently, the trustees designated your bank as the sole trustee.

Under the terms of the trust, the income from its assets is to be used for research projects approved by the governing board of the hospital (now the S. C. Mental Health Commission). Only marginal use has been made of the fund for two reasons. First, South Carolina's mental health program has had to concentrate on treatment and basic necessities and largely has lacked personnel qualified for quality research programs. Second, it was deemed wise to let the fund grow until its income was large enough to underwrite research projects of some size and significance.

Now both of these conditions have been met. The fund is now large enough to finance some sizable projects. More important, we now have the qualified research personnel and for several months we have been moving actively toward launching several research programs.

In June, 1964, we activated a division of research and training within the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, headed by a deputy commissioner of mental health with special training in research. Subsequently, a new complex of buildings at S. C. State Hospital was designated by law as a separate teaching hospital devoted primarily to education and research. One of the first full-time faculty members employed was a neurologist with advanced training in bio-chemistry and research.

Last fall, this neurologist formulated a research program which has been approved in principle. A copy of a memorandum describing the program in detail is enclosed. At present the author, Dr. Charles N. Still, is in Boston, Mass., for three months of collaborative research and training in reading encephalographs in hospitals related to Harvard University School of Medicine.

Mr. Marshall A. Shearouse
January 28, 1966
Page -2-

Meanwhile, we are taking steps toward activating this research program to a significant extent by July 1 of this year. A research specialist from the University of Georgia is now engaged in helping us set up the program. A laboratory research technician has been employed. Additional personnel will be employed by July 1.

In this connection, within the next few weeks we will be submitting to your bank, as trustee for the Ensor Research Foundation, a request for funds with which to implement all or part of this program--on a continuing basis.

It seems to us that the Ensor Research Foundation has every right to retain its tax-exempt status. The entire proceeds of the Foundation are designated irrevocably for research to be accomplished by a public, state-owned, tax-supported institution. Postponement of major utilization of the fund has been well-founded and full utilization is clearly within sight. The sole objective is enlargement of medical and scientific knowledge for the benefit of mentally ill citizens.

If any additional information is needed by you or the tax authorities, we will be happy to furnish it.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Hall, M.D.
State Commissioner of Mental Health

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