

Robert C. Griggs, M.D.
Professor of Neurology, Medicine, Pediatrics,
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June 15, 2018

Re: OFFICIAL: MR/S005021/1 MRC Strategic Award to establish an International Centre for Genomic Medicine in Neuromuscular Diseases

Dear Professor Hanna:

I write to indicate my strong support for your proposed program of international training and my interest in having your program serve as a resource for my own training program. I also think that my efforts to build research and training opportunities in Brazil and in Sub-Saharan Africa could strengthen what will take place in Zambia and Brazil.

As you know, you and I have jointly trained many young investigators in the UK and the US. Our long collaboration on the Neuromuscular Channelopathies serves as an excellent example of the type of synergies which have developed. Your trainees have worked with ours in an environment that has fostered the development and FDA-approval of new treatments for neuromuscular diseases.

Highly relevant to your proposed centre is the fact that we are building programs that will provide opportunity for young U.S. people to train in Neurotherapeutics in Zambia and in Brazil. The program which you are proposing will dovetail well with our efforts. We are interested in fostering the diversity of our own training program by interesting Latino trainees (living in the U.S.) in training in Brazil. Indeed, we expect to have a US colleague originally from Brazil secure NIH funding for her work there. She will be another point of contact for both of us in program development there.

Similarly, the lead investigator from Rochester (Prof Birbeck) and her colleague Dr. David Beardon have experience in Zambia that has made NIH-funded studies possible in low-resource environments. My own trainees have had productive experiences working there. The environment that you are proposing to develop there will be of extraordinary value to our own trainees. I expect this training environment will enrich your program in Genomic Medicine in Neuromuscular Disease.

I am committed to working together going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Griggs".

Robert C. Griggs, M.D., FAAN
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