

Minutes of the Meeting of the Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation

The second annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation was held in the Committee Room, 15th Floor, Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, on June 7th, 1968 with Mr. Ian M. MacKeigan in the chair.

Present: Dr. M.S. DeWolfe
 Mr. Charles Fisher
 Dr. R.B. Goldbloom
 Dr. R.O. Jones
 Mr. Daniel McDade, substituting for Mr. Douglas Bannon
 Miss Lillian Romkey
 Dr. J.L. Saunders
 Dr. John Stanley
 Dr. C.B. Stewart
 Mr. W.R.E. Butler
 Dr. Allan Roeher, National Executive Director,
 Canadian Association for Retarded Children

Absent: Mr. Douglas Bannon
 Mr. David Fraser
 Dr. Clarence Pottle,

Proceedings:

Dr. R.B. Goldbloom moved the acceptance of the minutes of the first Director's Meeting, May 12th, 1967, which had been circulated to all members of the Board. The motion was seconded by Miss Lillian Romkey and approved unanimously.

The Director's report was presented by Dr. R.B. Goldbloom, a copy of this report is attached. Dr. Goldbloom commented briefly on future plans: a) Possible appointment of a full-time population geneticist in the near future. b) A project

started by Dr. Welch at Dorchester Penitentiary to determine the association of XYY karyotype with increased stature and criminal tendencies.

Dr. Roeher pointed out that a population geneticist is concerned with large populations rather than single families and that this concern with large populations gives information relating to prediction of mental retardation. Such a person would need to be an expert statistician and an expert geneticist. He felt that this contribution would have a national approach even though such work might be carried out in a number of centers.

Dr. Goldbloom commented that individuals well trained in both genetics and statistics were extremely rare.

Dr. Goldbloom, in response to an inquiry from Dr. Stanley about the procedure for investigation of children who were mentally retarded, stressed that Dalhousie University and the Children's Hospital would both be concerned in such investigation. The clinical investigation would take place in the hospital and the laboratory investigation at the University, at the moment, but investigation in both areas would be done by the same people.

Dr. Stanley asked if guide-lines could be given regarding referral of patients.

Dr. Saunders asked if medical students other than those working in the laboratory in the summer would become involved. Dr. Goldbloom commented that as all faculty members did some teaching that the involvement of the students would become greater as more faculty members interested in such work became available.

Dr. Roeher inquired about the recruitment possibilities for future staff members. Dr. R.B. Goldbloom answered that possibilities were reasonably good. For example, a population geneticist has already visited us and showed interest in the Centre. Negotiations with neurochemists are going on

and it is possible that a neurochemist may be obtained in the future. Dr. Goldbloom said that the present staff of the Institute consists of Dr. J. Philip Welch plus three associates all of whom are supported by the Centre; and Dr. M.S. DeWolfe plus associates who are working in the centre but are not supported by it.

Dr. Stewart commented that a population geneticist had not been designated as such in the original brief but that this area was an excellent one for such a person to study.

Dr. Goldbloom responded to Mr. MacKeigan's query as to how the research was co-ordinated by saying that all of the research would be related to mental retardation and that areas of research of the individual investigators would be determined by their previous work. They would come to the centre having research related to mental retardation already in progress. He commented that there would be little danger of overlap with work done by others, as visits to other centers and meetings with other investigators would keep the staff in touch with work going on elsewhere.

Dr. Jones commented that the association of XYY karyotype and height would not only be found in inmates of penitentiaries but also in schools for the mentally retarded.

Dr. Saunders asked about investigation of phenylketonuria and Dr. Goldbloom responded that Dr. DeWolfe was doing this but that she was not supported by the Center.

Miss Romkey asked if all the research was centered in Nova Scotia and Dr. Goldbloom replied that the penitentiary study for example, was being carried out in New Brunswick.

Dr. Stewart pointed out that it was difficult to specify the area which was the Atlantic Research Centre for Mental Retardation as some work going on in the laboratories was not related to mental retardation.

Dr. Goldbloom presented the financial report, a copy of which is attached. Funds were received from the Province of Nova Scotia, Province of New Brunswick and the Federal Government but the first annual payment from Prince Edward Island has not yet been received. Mr. MacKeigan said that the Prince Edward Island grant had been promised. The next payments from the Provincial Governments are due July 1st, 1968.

Dr. Roeher advised that the Director should be sure to allow for sufficient funds in future grant requests to the Federal Government to cover items which were listed as being over-expended in the journal voucher.

Dr. Goldbloom said he would check this for future requests.

Mr. MacKeigan asked Dr. Goldbloom if he had a budget for future expenditures. Dr. Goldbloom said that increased expenditures would include the salary for a population geneticist who might be available this summer, and a neurochemist to be employed as soon as possible.

Mr. MacKeigan asked if there would be difficulty in using up all of the federal grant for the year 1968-69. Both Dr. Goldbloom and Dr. Stewart said no as it would not cover the salaries of two investigators and three technicians.

The question of unexpended funds in the Provincial Grants was discussed. Dr. Stewart suggested that payments might be deferred with the firm commitment that payments would be made when needed. Dr. Roeher felt that perhaps the center do this and ask for the funds when needed but Miss Romkey pointed out that it would be necessary to advise the Provincial Governments one year in advance, as their budgets would have to include the amount to be paid.

Dr. Stewart suggested that the situation be allowed to stand as it is at present and be reviewed at the end of this year.

Mr. MacKeigan pointed out that the Newfoundland participation had not been pressed, but suggested that Dr. Pottle should still be considered a member of the board.

Dr. Roeher said that the Department of Health in Ottawa would be asked to report on the values of the programmes across the country. He suggested that this should be kept in mind when reporting to them. Successful operation of the centre and vigorous carrying out of research would contribute to the possibility of support after the five year period. Dr. Stewart commented that reports of clinical studies and Research publications would be a good indication of the vigor with which research was being pursued.

Dr. Roeher felt that the emphasis was on new positions and trail-blazing in the field of mental retardation and that this point should be emphasized.

Dr. Stewart felt that future reports should include research done by people who were not supported by the center, for example, Dr. DeWolfe.

Approval of the financial report was moved by Dr. Stanley and seconded by Mr. Fisher. Passed.

Approval of the motions passed by the Executive on November 10th, 1967 was moved by Dr. Jones and seconded by Miss Romkey. Passed.

These motions are as follows:

1. That each member of the Professional Staff be allowed \$500 a year to attend scientific meetings at the Director's Discretion. That amounts in excess of \$500 be approved by the Executive Board of Directors.

2. That funds to cover day to day expenses be provided up to the amount of \$2,500 annually.
3. That 25 per cent of the equipment purchased through the Atlantic Research Center for mental retardation be charged to the center up to the amount of \$6,000 annually.

The meeting adjourned on motion from Dr. C.B. Stewart and was followed by the official opening ceremonies for the laboratories of the Atlantic Research Center for Mental Retardation. A copy of the programme is attached to the minutes. Following the remarks of Dr. Richard B. Goldbloom, a ten minute video tape prepared by Dr. J.P. Welch on the study of human chromosomes was presented. The center was officially opened by His Honour the Lieutenant Governor H.P. MacKeen.