

The file contains four letters written by federal officials expressing support for Dr. Becker's research program on tissue regeneration.

1. James M Handley, Member of Congress, 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District of New York, to George Henegar, M.D., Chief of Staff, VA Hospital, Syracuse, dated April 13, 1978.
2. Alan Cranston, Senator, California, to Robert Becker, M.D., dated June 13, 1978.
3. John Glenn, Senator, Ohio, to Robert Becker, M.D., dated August 25, 1978.
4. Max Cleland, Administrator, Veterans Administration, to Victor Cohen, Washington Post, dated December 19, 1979.

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DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE  
TOM DE YULIA

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

RECEIVED  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
April 13, 1978  
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SMALL BUSINESS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
SBA AND SBIC AUTHORITY AND  
GENERAL SMALL BUSINESS PROBLEMS  
ANTITRUST AND RESTRAINT OF  
TRADE ACTIVITIES AFFECTING  
SMALL BUSINESS

George Henegar, M.D.  
Chief of Staff  
VA Hospital  
800 Irving Avenue  
Syracuse, New York 13210

Dear Dr. Henegar:

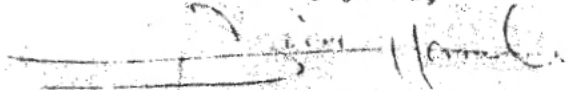
I thought that the enclosed copy of my testimony before the Subcommittee on HUD - Independent Agencies of the Appropriations Committee, relative to the proposed 1979 VA Hospital Budget, might be of interest to you.

You will also be interested to know that this morning I met with VA Administrator Max Cleland, Chief Medical Director Dr. John Chase, and Mr. Guy McMichael who is General Counsel for the VA. The main topic of the meeting was the research program at the Syracuse VA Hospital. Administrator Cleland stated that he has been very pleased with the VA's research program. However, he added that he believes that the VA's greatest commitment should be in areas of special concern to veterans... that research in the field of prosthetics, spinal injuries and alcoholism should take precedence over bio-medical research. In this regard, they expressed a special interest in the regenerative tissue research being conducted by Dr. Robert Becker at the Syracuse VA Hospital.

I was most impressed by the understanding and knowledge of the situation at the Syracuse VA Hospital, as expressed by Administrator Cleland and Dr. Chase. Both men were well aware of the importance of the VA Hospital's affiliation with Upstate Medical Center. I feel that, under their guidance, the VA will do everything it can to retain the Syracuse VA research program... dependent, of course, on the amount of appropriations authorized for research purposes. On the basis of my appearance before the Appropriations Subcommittee, I am also optimistic that adequate funding for research purposes will be restored to the budget so that the VA will not be forced to discontinue vital research projects. You may be assured of my continuing efforts toward this end.

With kindest regards and every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,



James M. Hanley  
Member of Congress

JMH:feh  
Enclosure

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 13, 1978

Robert Becker, M.D.  
Chief, Orthopedic Surgery  
Veterans Administration Hospital  
Irving Avenue & University Place  
Syracuse, New York 13210

Dear Bob,

I want you to know how very much I appreciated your giving up a Sunday to meet with me in late April to discuss ways in which the federal government can place a greater emphasis on basic research and can identify and encourage research with the greatest potential.

As a result of the meeting, I have had conversations with a number of Senators as well as with leaders outside government who are in a special position to pursue some of the suggestions made at the meeting. I am optimistic about the possibilities of positive action being taken on these suggestions.

Your participation was tremendously helpful, and I'm very grateful to you. I look forward to working with you in implementing the suggestions made at the meeting.

With warm regards,

Cordially,



Alan Cranston

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## United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 25, 1978

Robert O. Becker, M.D.  
Chief, Orthopedic Surgery  
Veterans Administration Hospital  
Irving Avenue and University Place  
Syracuse, New York 13210

Dear Dr. Becker:

I was fascinated to learn of the work you are doing in the area of regeneration through a recent article in the WASHINGTON POST.

I was glad to bring this research to the attention of my colleagues and others by inserting Ms. Susan Schiefelbein's article in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and am enclosing reprints for your use.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



John Glenn  
United States Senator

JG/dl  
Enclosures

**VETERANS ADMINISTRATION**  
Office of the Administrator of Veterans Affairs  
Washington, D. C. 20420

DECEMBER 19 1979

Mr. Victor Cohn  
Staff Writer  
The Washington Post  
1150 15th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20071

Dear Mr. Cohn:

I read your recent excellent article on spinal cord injuries and found it up to the usual high standards of medical reporting I've come to associate with your by-line.

The major commitment VA makes each year to care of the spinal cord injured might be an area we could help you explore in putting together a future piece on this subject. The work we do in patient services, in rehabilitative engineering and in medical research benefits not only those severely disabled veterans who are our primary concern, but adds to a body of knowledge from which all mankind benefits. In this current fiscal year we'll be spending more than \$3.2 million in various SCI research areas and we intend to request a \$5.2 million appropriation for FY 1981.

Some of the most fascinating research we do is conducted by Dr. Robert O. Becker, Chief of Orthopedics at our Syracuse VA Medical Center. Dr. Becker is a world-renowned expert in the study of limb regeneration and his pioneering work offers hope of major breakthroughs. He can be contacted at (315) 476-7461, extension 275.

Please call on us for any additional assistance you may need.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED: MAX**

**MAX CLELAND**  
Administrator

cc: Dr. Robert O. Becker, VAMC, Syracuse, NY 13210