

*“An atmosphere of excitement, of high expectation  
and a knowledge . . . of serving mankind”*

Extracts from remarks of the director, National Institutes of Health, at the dedication of the Clinical Center.

The United States now has a medical research establishment as fine as any in the world. This building, in its unique and original design, supplies the facilities that are essential for the close interworking of clinical and laboratory research scientists which is required by the intricacies of the search for the cause and treatment of diseases such as heart disease, mental illness, cancer and the other killing, crippling, and chronic diseases with which we will be working. The Clinical Center will make possible research of a very high caliber: our real job now begins.

Medical research is an intellectual pursuit. Its success depends entirely on the capability of the individual. If we are to succeed in this great undertaking, we must continue to attract staff of the highest professional qualifications and continue to maintain an environment in which scientific excellence is the major value. We want to create in this building the atmosphere of excitement, of high expectation and a knowledge of the happiness that can be achieved in serving mankind—the things that are common to all great research institutions.

We want our patients to feel they are our colleagues in research and to experience this same atmosphere. They will receive the best care that medical science can provide. Our

moral obligation to do our best to treat the sick is paramount. Clinical studies will go forward within limits set by the welfare of patients. Not only is this a moral imperative—but it is the only way that sound clinical research can be done. These objectives and principles will guide the National Institutes of Health.

In extending our research organization we face the complex problem of establishing the proper relative emphasis upon laboratory and clinical research. We will fail if clinical research overshadows or replaces laboratory work, and we must insure that clinical observations are fully developed in the laboratory.

To those who are not acquainted at first hand with the operation of a research organization these problems may seem abstract. To those who are familiar with the problem I need say no more.

As we today dedicate this building we are merely saying—this is the beginning. We deeply appreciate the faith that the Congress has shown in our assurances that this great investment in medical research will pay off in benefit to the health and welfare of the people of the United States. It will be our job now to make good those assurances. . . .

—WILLIAM H. SEBRELL, JR., M.D.

