

C O P Y

To: Mrs. Shirley Ferebee  
Assistant Chief, Field Research Branch  
Division of Chronic Disease and Tuberculosis

10-11-52

From: F. W. Appel  
Division of Research Grants

Subject: Furcolow

On Friday October 10, 1952, I learned from Dr. Charlotte Campbell of the Army Medical Center that Dr. Michael L. Furcolow, formerly a member of your staff, is now insisting that she and Dr. Samuel Saslaw allow him to publish the results of the 1949 joint PHS-Army serological tests for histoplasmosis, omitting the statistical part and interpreting the data as he sees fit. Such publication would break the standing agreement, and of course it would be unfair to the careful, conscientious workers at Army, who cooperated so fully at the time. Since the work was done under the auspices of your Division and since I am involved too I would like to be sure publication is not permitted unless all parties concerned are agreeable to it-as apparently they are not. Drs. Campbell and Saslaw may come to you for reassurance on the matter. The protocol, set up before the tests were run, stipulated that all uses of the data would be determined jointly by the representatives of the two agencies concerned, namely Drs. Furcolow and Saslaw.

You may recall that Dr. Furcolow did not complete some of the tests he agreed to do, and that after the tests were over all efforts to arrange a joint conference failed, possibly because Dr. Furcolow wanted to leave all statistics out of consideration. At Dr. Furcolow's final conference with you and Dr. Palmer on November 3, 1949- just before his transfer to the Communicable Disease Center - the understanding was reached that the Division of Tuberculosis would abandon the project, considering the tests as pilot studies only and not subject to publication. Later that same day Dr. Furcolow went at Dr. Palmer's insistence to see Drs. Saslaw and Campbell for a final settlement, and left them with the understanding that the matter would be dropped. I have memoranda from you to these effects, but I am sure you recall the facts.

I am told that work done since 1949, some of it unpublished as yet, explains much that was obscure three years ago. It would be a mistake for anyone to publish at this late date the results of tests which are now out-moded, and it is quite possible that such publication would start controversy which would not bring credit to the Division. Can you lay this ghost once and for all, and reassure Drs. Campbell and Saslaw? I shall appreciate it if you will let me know just how firm a stand the Division can take.