

also stem from the roots and insecurities of impermanence.

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Research and Careers for Blacks

PROBABLY FEWER than one in 25 doctors gives major and sustained effort to research inquiries. This group of men represents a priceless national resource. Few professionals would quarrel with the obvious need for quality research even as priorities concerning service and education are being modified. In order to assure such quality research, it is necessary to make provision for funds both for the conduct of investigations and support for the investigators. In the past, such support has included funds to nurture and develop researchers.

The public and private patrons of research now must be persuaded that it is crucial, even in times of a threatened cutback of research funds, to make special plans to encourage and develop Black researchers. Without such deliberate effort it seems doubtful that even one in 25 Black doctors will be engaged in research. The long-range consequences of such a situation are alien to the best interests of the country.

An ever-growing social and economic awareness of the need to supply better health services to minority populations will make certain that a good proportion of medical manpower concern itself in such delivery. During the next decade there will be an absolute increase in the number of Black doctors, who will aid in this cause as they labor in and out of the ghettos. However, compelling circumstances reflecting the temper of the times and the life experiences of the young Black doctors may make research careers seem irrelevant and/or out of reach. Thus the already small cadre of researchers would not be augmented by the infusion of more significant numbers of minority doctors. All of society is diminished in this regard.

Since psychiatry will appeal to large numbers of Black doctors, and the ghettos even now are requesting more mental health services, the need for Black mental health researchers is critical. Yet it must be emphasized that although it is a hopeful and justifiable expectation that Black researchers will contribute to the eradication of the psychosocial ills gripping our country, the Black doctor must not be forced into limited and narrow areas of investigation. Research interest cannot be legislated, but there is no doubt that many young Blacks between now and 2000 A.D. will pursue problems related to the ghetto. However, the very need of these ghettos to become vibrant, dynamic, proud, independent, contributing places will demand that other young doctors work on an unrestricted number of topics.

Accordingly, it is suggested that psychiatrists today make plans to encourage, select, and train Blacks in research careers. The fabric of

this plan is not only sufficient financial support for livelihood and experimentation but also active proselytizing and guidance. Indeed the American Psychiatric Association should encourage the controllers of private and public research funds to insist upon a research career development plan for minority physicians, be they Spanish-speaking, Indian, Oriental, or Black.

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Many things having full reference
 To one consent, may work contrariously;
 As many arrows, loosed several ways,
 Fly to one mark;
 As many several ways meet in one town;
 As many fresh streams meet in one salt sea;
 As many lines close in the dial's centre;
 So may a thousand actions, once afoot,
 End in one purpose, and be all well borne
 Without defeat.

—SHAKESPEARE