

Sorry, Albert...

The British Research Council

Turtle House
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Wormwood
Beastleigh
BR9 71D

Mr. A Einstein
Patent Office
Berne, Switzerland

Dear Mr Einstein,

With reference to your application GR/29997/AE entitled 'Theoretical Physics' submitted under the UK-Switzerland bilateral agreement, I regret to inform you that, after due consideration by the Review Panel, it has not been recommended for support. The referees noted a number of weaknesses, both of substance and of form, and regarded it as unsuitable for any further consideration. I have been authorised by the Selection Committee to provide you with a brief summary of the discussion at their recent meeting.

1. You proposed to perform a study in Theoretical Physics, and in particular as regards the relationship between mass and energy. It is unclear whether such a connection could exist, and, even if it did, whether it could have any practical consequences at all. It therefore it seems quite unsuitable to spend public money on this kind of speculative research. Indeed, you are reminded that there is a section in the Application Form AF29A dealing with Relevance to Beneficiaries and/or Commercial Applicability of the Research (which you chose to leave blank despite the warning in the instructions that completion of this box is mandatory). In its discussion, the Committee felt you would be well advised to pursue a more relevant topic of research.

2. The proposal aims to establish a 'new theory of physics' dealing with radiation / gravitation and some issues apparently relating to space and time. The Committee found the proposal quite obscure and also found it lacking in clarity (i.e. it was regarded as having been badly presented). The English was also poor. As regards content, these subjects are anyway well worked out in existing theories (as pointed out by all the referees), and the Committee therefore felt that there was no urgency in considering the matter, or any pressing need for further research in this area. It was also unclear what could be gained by combining diverse issues (all well-known) into a single proposal. You are advised that novelty and timeliness are criteria for selection of Research Grant Applications by the BRC, and that they extend to the choice of subject area. It was felt that the word 'new' was misleading in this context.

It may be worth pointing out that the President of EUROSCIENCE, **Jean-Patrick Connerade**, celebrates Einstein year in his own way. Indispensable reading if you are trying to raise financial

support for your own work and recover from the trauma of your past experiences. Humour remains the best and most powerful weapon to fight back against the system...

3. The application mentions some recent experiments to produce electrons by shining light onto metallic surfaces, as well as the possibility of observing motions asserted to be of atomic origin. The Committee felt strongly that the research plan was uncoordinated, bringing in too many subjects of doubtful relevance to each other, and disparate speculative ideas from unrelated areas of science. The view was expressed that the proposal failed to be convincing for precisely this reason. There was even a suggestion of 'jumping onto a bandwagon' by making such an application from a Patent Office, although there was no indication of any potential patent application in the proposal.

4. The Committee noted with concern the plan to work alone and in isolation on all these subjects, despite having very little track record at this stage of career, rather than joining an established collaborative interdisciplinary or inter-sectorial team. The research would, if funded, be pursued outside existing international networks. Indeed, it was even suggested that this might be more effective. The Committee was unanimous in regarding this approach as unwise. Indeed, it is contrary to the spirit of applications supported by the BRC. You are strongly advised to read the instructions for completing Form AF29A, available at: <http://www.brc/forms/advice/instructions/section6/par3>, especially as regards the effectiveness of joint research undertakings.

5. It was noted that you propose to pursue this work at the Patent Office, which is not a centre of excellence in the area of theoretical physics/ gravitation/ radiation and has not previously been supported for research by the BRC. Indeed, it has not even been rated in any Research Assessment Exercise, and there appear to be no previous grant application on file from this institution. While the BRC has a clear interest in patents, the proposal does not specify any arrangements for exploitation or sharing of IPR on completion of the research. No deliverables are listed. There are no milestones and the timeframe is not even stated.

6. The plan for communicating the research is inadequate. Zeit. für Phys. Is not a high impact journal, and the results thus reported would probably only be understood by a very small number of specialists in the field.

I must remind you that, under BRC rules, we cannot enter into any correspondence about the Committee's decisions, which are final. You are further advised that any new submission (which must address all the points above) cannot be made within six months from the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely,



Cindy Newton-Featherstone
Programme Manager BRC
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