

Charles H. Hood Foundation

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Dr. Russell recommended a peer review committee of medical and public health experts. His advice corresponded closely with Harvey Hod's own innovations in the use of successful management committees instead of traditional hierarchical structures. In establishing the committee, Mr. Hod also created a membership rotation system, which continues today, designed to profit from members' expertise without overtaxing them, and to ensure that the Foundation would continue to draw upon New England's leading child health experts. Today, selection of grant recipients using a peer review process is the norm at institutions that fund medical research. But in 1942, the Hod Foundation was one of the first to establish peer review as the basis for its decisions, four years before the National Institutes of Health.

In its early years, the Child Health Research Awards Program focused on infectious diseases, prevention, and training.