

October 16, 1968

Dr. Herman Witkin  
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450 Clarkson Avenue  
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Dear Hy:

I just came back from the meetings of the American Society of Human Genetics where the two questions of XYY and of prenatal diagnosis were very much in the forefront of corridor discussion. The main thing I wanted to pass on to you was that at least two XYYs have been found of moderate stature, one 5'6", the other 5'9". Each of them, however, was the tallest member of his family. I was not yet able to track down the quantitative measurements.

I am sure you also noticed newspaper articles from France and Australia, respectively, on some legal implications of XYY. I would be very much interested to read the full transcripts of the trials, but the news accounts suggest that XYY was, as it should be, only contributory evidence with respect to the defendant's capacity for a responsible judgment.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

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