

*As. W. Pendygraft file*



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

September 6, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Mr. George W. Pendygraft  
Baker & Daniels  
810 Fletcher Trust Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Pendygraft:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of August 31st and for the copy of the NAS report on GAC. I certainly did read that with the greatest of interest! It is too bad that a government agency that is supposed to regulate fairly, ends up in being such an adversarial position, by having committed itself to a policy so long before the relevant facts could be available.

I hardly need to tell you of my own long standing commitment to critical research in this general area. Comparative toxicology represents a priority of such national scientific interest that I have had concluded that this University has a particular responsibility and capability to engender a more enlightened framework of discussion and policy formation.

The enclosure on this subject is taken from my first annual report, which is in the press. I hope it is not too forward to ask if you might be able to be of some help in identifying further sponsors for the organization of our research programs in this direction. Ideally, I would like to collect an endowment fund, totalling \$3 million, to be able to ensure a program of the highest quality, autonomy, and credibility. This is not so easily done, although I have lined up a few tentative partial entries into such a package. A number of other organizations have been eager to help us to the extent of, for example, \$100,000 per year for a period of time. At the present moment what I most need are gifts and pledges toward the general concept of such a program, so that I can recruit the outstanding principals and get the laboratory well started. I am sure there will be no difficulty

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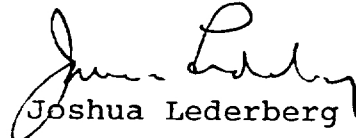
whatsoever in getting operating funds for specific research projects once the working engine is in place. But, as you may know, pulling this together in the first instance requires working capital of the sort which is not available to an academic institution through customary investment sources.

We do face some risk of diminished credibility if our contributions are entirely short term grants from industrial sources and particularly if directed to specific paths. I believe the reputation and the reality of critical scientific judgement that is embodied in the tradition of this institution can sustain that credibility and the more so as we intend to guard it most carefully. Other remedies that we seek will, however, be joint support including federal research grants, and above all unrestricted donations from private individuals by gift or bequest.

Any help that you or your colleagues might offer, at first, second, or third hand towards helping to recruit the resources for this campaign would be most gratefully received. You will also agree they would be in the service of a very important cause in the public interest.

Needless to say, I would be happy to furnish any additional information that would be of interest to you; and let me also ask that you and your colleagues take advantage of any convenient opportunity that you may have to visit here in New York to discuss any of the issues of recent, present or future mutual interest.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg

Encls.

cc: Mr. Frederick Lehmann