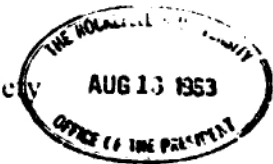


The Behavioral Teratology Society

Established in 1979



Ernest L. Abel, Ph.D.  
President

Hugh Tilson, Ph.D.  
Secretary

Granville Nolan, Ph.D.  
Treasurer

August 10, 1983

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
President  
The Rockefeller University

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am writing on behalf of the Behavioral Teratology Society and am asking for your help and support. The Behavioral Teratology Society was established in 1979 by a group of researchers interested in behavioral dysfunctions that might result from prenatal exposure to certain agents. The thalidomide catastrophe made all of us keenly aware that severe and obvious birth defects could be caused by prenatal exposure to some agents. We now know that some nutritional and environmental factors, chemicals, and drugs can also cause later behavioral effects, in the absence of gross physical malformations, when exposure to them occurs early in development. These effects can include mental retardation or more subtle behavioral problems such as hyperactivity. Behavioral teratologists are interested in examining the relationship between prenatal exposure to these agents and later behavioral effects.

The Behavioral Teratology Society has grown rapidly in the last few years, and now meets each year as a satellite session of the Teratology Society. In the last few years, we have sponsored symposia on various topics including fetal alcohol effects and the developmental effects of early exposure to heavy metals. This year our symposium will be on the effects of undernutrition during pregnancy. In addition to this symposium, paper and poster sessions covering a wide range of topics will also be included.

As the Society has grown, the cost of sponsoring these various symposia and sessions has also grown. At present our administrative costs are primarily borne by the Teratology Society and contributions from a few concerned companies and philanthropic organizations such as the March of Dimes. However, we need assistance in sponsoring the symposium on nutrition. Several eminent scientists will be contacted, and we would like help to defray some of their costs while attending the meeting.

The Behavioral Teratology Society is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization and any contributions that your organization could make would certainly be appreciated. All contributions are also given special thanks in our published program. If I can be of any assistance or answer any questions that you might have about the Society, please feel free to contact me.

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DJL

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*[Handwritten signature]*

Sincerely,

*[Handwritten signature: E. Abel]*

Ernest L. Abel, Ph.D.  
President