



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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NEW YORK, NY 10021

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JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

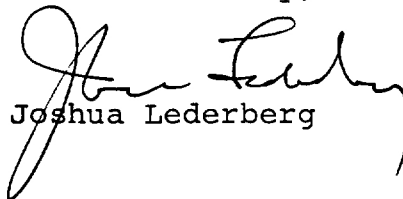
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Dr. Victor Freeman
P. O. Box ~~517~~ 639
Milbrae, California 94030

Dear Dr. Freeman:

Neal Groman was kind enough to give me your address. I am writing to ask if you can clear up the early history of your discovery of lysogenic conversion in *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* in 1951. Enclosed are two slightly divergent anecdotes from Neal Groman and Lane Barksdale respectively. While they are not incompatible they leave me slightly confused about what may have been in your mind in conducting that epochal experiment. If you have written about this closer to the event, or if you can give me the benefit of your spontaneous recall, it would be fun to have the definitive version of that creation. My wife, Marguerite, who practices psychiatry at Memorial Hospital, would (but would not have to) remind me of the difficulties of reconstruction after such an interval -- something I discovered from my own experience at retrospection. I leave it to you to put whatever qualifications you think are appropriate; but I hope you will also give me leave to quote whatever you can tell me at this point.

I understand that you left microbiology for psychiatry not long after that discovery, which I have been citing since 1952. As I was at Stanford for 20 years, from 1959 through 1978, I am sorry that it is only now that I have discovered that you were nearly a neighbor.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

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