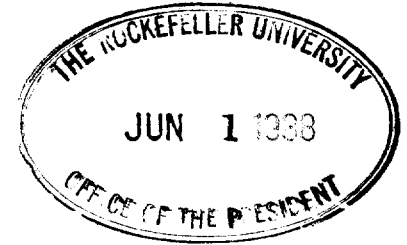


UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
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School of Medicine
Department of Microbiology, SC-42

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Office of the President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10021-6399

May 25, 1988

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

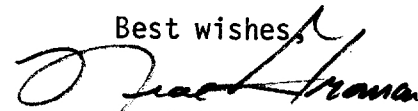
In this age of astrological politics it was a bit cosmic to receive your letter. Just one day earlier I had been cleaning out my 1973 correspondence file, saw the letter I had written to you and wondered whether any use had been made of it.

My account and that of Lane Barksdale's of Freeman's discovery are not incompatible, but I can't verify the details of his account. It seems historically of interest to establish the motivation behind Freeman's experiment in exposing non-toxinogenic C. diphtheriae to phage. Was it as I recollect an attempt to test the theory that they produced but did not secrete toxin, or was it the outcome of a control? The best thing to do is to ask Freeman. In 1985, after I published a review of conversion, I decided to locate him and send him a copy. After all it was his scientific child, and I thought he would be interested in how it had grown up. I found his address in a directory of psychiatrists. I wrote and received a short note from him indicating he had indeed had a full career as a psychiatrist. Clearly there had not been a second "conversion" in his life. The address is

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

Incidentally, I was going through my files preparatory to retirement a year from now. While we finally did manage transformation in C. diphtheriae after 35 years of sporadic effort, I did fail to satisfy my ambition to trace the origin of diphtheria toxin.

Best wishes,


Neal Groman, Ph.D.
Professor