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12th January 1987.

Dear Professor Joshua Lederberg,

Last week I came across in the latest issue of NATURE dated 18th-31st December 1986, your "Fortieth anniversary reminiscences" and a follow-up article on "Post-mature scientific discovery" with Harriet Zuckerman. This brought back pleasant memories of meeting you first at the Cancer Research Institute at Bombay and later in Copenhagen at the Carlsberg Laboratories in 1958, when you were considering recruitment of A. T. Ganesan to work with you.

Actually I had planned to call on you and seek your advice some time during April-July 1986 while I was in USA as a Visiting Professor at the University of Rochester Cancer Centre at Rochester N.Y. But the eagerness to complete my work during the short time I had at Rochester prevented me in getting in touch with you.

I retired from the Cancer Research Institute Bombay in 1978 and on principle I did not wish to continue work at a place where I had held important positions such as the Head Chemotherapy Division and Dean of the Institute. I have kept myself fairly active in the field, but without adequate laboratory facilities the progress of work can be disappointingly slow. It can be very frustrating when you know that you have something to offer for the alleviation of human suffering. Few lines below will probably explain what I am trying to say.

As you probably know, the currently used diagnostic methods detect cancers only when the tumour load exceeds a million cells. It is too late by then. I have developed a method, which I believe can detect cancers in persons at risk of cancer long before they are even aware of its presence or are motivated to seek medical advice for any of the cancer related symptoms. Using our 300 times stronger tumour-mimetic antigens developed by us, I feel we can detect cancers really early when the tumour load is between 1 to 10,000 cells. Further the method is an in vitro method and requires hardly 1-2 mls of peripheral blood which is readily obtainable through periodic health check-ups. It has the potential of picking out persons at risk of cancer at a very early stage from the general populace. We have already carried out the spade work and the rationale seems to be fairly established. Even so I like to carry out some controlled experiments and put the idea to rigorous tests in experimental

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animal model system where controls can be rigorously applied and results ascertained within ~~g~~ stipulated time.

I would appreciate receiving your advice on how best the developmental work can be expedited. Would the Rockefeller Institute be of any assistance in the speedy development of the project. I would appreciate your views in the matter at your earliest convenience.

With kind regards and wishing you a Very  
Happy New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

*M. B. Sahasrabudhe*  
*12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1987*  
( M. B. Sahasrabudhe )

To,  
Professor Joshua Lederberg  
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