



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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PRESIDENT

Dr. C. Scholtissek
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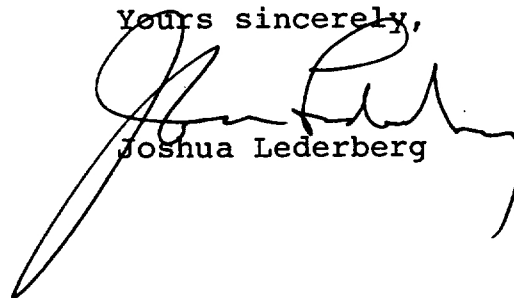
Dear Dr. Scholtissek:

Bob Chanock has called your paper on the nucleoproteins of influenza A to my attention. I certainly read that with great excitement.

I have one tiny technical question to ask of you: namely just what is the evidence that PR8 really is a "human" influenza strain. I know that it was purportedly derived from a human isolate but it was adapted to the chick CAM over many passages. So I really do wonder if there is any possibility that it has acquired some or all of its avian characteristics by some form of recombination or reassortment with other passenger viruses. (I am under the impression that this was developed in F. M. Burnet's laboratory and in fact I went down to Melbourne in 1957 in order to try to learn flu genetics from him. But I happened to pick the time when he was just phasing out that work in favor of his interest in mechanisms of antibody formation. Or did Hirst develop PR8?)

In any case, your findings are very exciting indeed -- and they will acquire even greater cogency as we acquire larger libraries of naturally occurring virus clones characteristic of different hosts.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

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