



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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May 31, 1988

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Emilio Weiss
3612 Raymond Street
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b. 1918

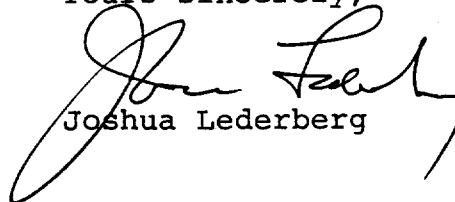
Dear Dr. Weiss:

I was very interested indeed to receive your letter of May 23rd and the very fascinating information that it conveyed. The affinities that you describe within prokaryote evolution are indeed very interesting. However, can we yet reach a final conclusion about the speculative possibility of genetic homology of the glycosyl transferases by an examination of the 16SR RNA? One would have to look more comprehensively and, in a more focussed way, to determine if there are homologous DNA sequences responsible for the recurrence of the glycosyl transferase in different bacteria.

I understand that the experiments you cited to me give no evidence for a relationship between *Proteus* and *Rickettsia*, but that is still some distance from ruling out a gene transfer hypothesis which would be a modern expression of the idea of paragglutination, that we associate with the names of Weil and Felix.

When you do have further publications on the subject I do hope you will apprise me of them. Meanwhile with best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg