



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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NEW YORK, NY 10021

December 31, 1986

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Major General Philip K. Russell  
U.S. Army Medical Research and  
Development Command  
Fort Detrick, Building 521  
Frederick, Maryland 21701-5012

Dear General Russell:

Thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to discuss problems of mutual interest. I really do stand ready to help in any way possible.

After further consideration I still think I would settle on Ivan Bennett as your best bet to chair an advisory group on BW defense research. No one in civilian life, barring a few ex-Fort Detrick alumni, exceed his overall grasp of the scientific, military and political issues, all of which must be well in hand. A number of other scientists surely could be very helpful; although some of these are situated where they might be loath to have a visible affiliation with military research. Ivan would be very skillful in smoothing over any of these obstacles that may arise on particular issues. I will be more than ready myself to assist in any way; and as Ivan and I work together very smoothly that would be all the easier.

Our talk together alerted me to the grave difficulties that arise from the organizational separation of BW detection from defense. Very little is shared between the means needed to characterize viruses and bacteria on the one hand, vs. chemical agents on the other. I realize the political problems of rearranging turfs but I wonder if you would not consider making a swap: namely giving toxins over to the Materiel Command in exchange for untrammled jurisdiction over every aspect of BW defense, including detection. This reduced the political problems that also flow from having BW related activities (which by treaty are constrained to defense) run in the same house as CW with its active offensive program. Yes, one might make some similar remark about toxins; but these at least belong scientifically along with chemicals. (If there is some way to rearrange turfs without a swap so much the better.) I am not going to open my mouth about this until I learn much more about it.

Major General Philip K. Russell  
December 31, 1986

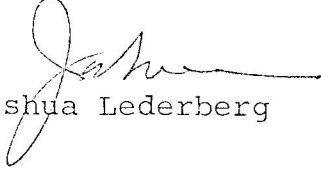
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Please let me know if there is anything else you would like me to do about suggesting or approaching advisors or in any other way.

I notice that you were on the liaison committee for the recent vaccine development report of the Institute of Medicine. If you met with the committee you will also know Purnell Choppin. He would be a prime candidate but I know that as Vice President and Scientific Director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute he has shed just about all of his outside commitments. Sam Katz is a very able fellow but I don't think he has any deeper or more modern scientific perspective than Ivan Bennett would bring to the table. Maurice Hilleman is someone, need hardly be said, of vast experience but I would put him roughly next to Ted Woodward.

One other scientist that ought to be approached is Dan Nathans at Johns Hopkins for whom I do have enormous regard. I don't know what his views would be about serving on your committee; and on the whole I think it would be just as prudent to ask him to be a consultant and have Ivan chair it.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

BENNETT, IVAN LOVERIDGE, JR, b Washington, DC, Mar 4, 22; m 44; c 4. PATHOLOGY. Educ: Emory Univ, AB, 43, MD, 46; Am Bd Internal Med, dipl. 54. Hon Degrees: LHD, Med Univ, SC, 81. Prof Exp: Intern. Grady Mem Hosp, Atlanta, 46-47; vis investr bact, Naval Med Res Inst, Bethesda, Md, 47-49; asst & fel path, Johns Hopkins Univ, 49-50; asst resident med, Duke Univ Hosp, 50-51; asst, Emory Univ, 51-52; asst prof internal med, Yale Univ, 52-54; from assoc prof to prof med, Johns Hopkins Univ, 54-58. Baxley prof path & dir dept, 58-66; from dep dir to actg dir, Off Sci & Technol, Exec Off of the President, 66-69; dir, Med Ctr, 69-73, vpres health affairs, 69, exec vpres, 75, actg pres, 79-81, dean, Sch Med, 70-82, provost, Med Ctr, 73-82, PROF MED, SCH MED, NY UNIV, 70- Concurrent Pos: Asst pathologist, Johns Hopkins Hosp, 49-50, physician & consult bact, 54-58, pathologist-in-chief, 58-68; chief resident, Grady Mem Hosp, 51-52; consult med, Baltimore City Hosps, 54-58, Loch Raven Vet Admin Hosp, 55-58 & Clin Ctr, USPHS, Bethesda, 55-58; spec consult, Surgeon-Gen, US Army, 56; consult path, Baltimore City Hosps, 58-66; mem comm epidemiol surv, Epidemiol Bd, Armed Forces, 56; consult, Commun Dis Ctr, USPHS, 57-; mem bd sci adv, Armed Forces Inst Path, 62-; mem exec comt, Div Med Sci, Nat Res Coun, 64-; chmn bd sci counr, Nat Inst Dent Res, 66-; chmn path training comt, Nat Inst Gen Med Sci, 66-; mem, President's Sci Adv Comt, 66-69; mem, US Japan Coop Med Sci Comt, NIH, 66-, chmn, 72, consult, Rev of Training Grants Prog, 70; mem, Bd Med, Nat Acad Sci, 67-70, mem, Int Environ Progs Comt, 70-74, consult, Space Sci Bd Rev of NASA Life Sci Prog, 70, mem comt on US int develop inst, Bd Sci & Technol for Int Develop, 70, mem, Bd Sci & Technol for Int Develop & Bd Human Resources, 70-; mem, President's Comt on Pop, 68-69, chmn panel chem & biol weapons, President's Sci Adv Comt, 69, chmn panel on biol & med sci, 69 & mem, President's Comt on the Nat Medal of Sci, 70-; mem adv panel sci & technol, Comt Sci & Astronaut, US House Rep, 69-; consult, Carnegie Endowment for Int Peace, 70-; mem, Life Sci Adv Comt, NASA, 71-; mem ad hoc comt on sci & tech advice to Fed Govt, Nat Acad Sci, 73-; mem, Defense Sci Bd, Dept of Defense & consult, Off Dir, Defense Res & Eng, 74-77; mem, Comt on Joint Study of US-USSR Sys for Fundamental Res, Nat Acad Sci, 74- Honors & Awards: Francis Gilman Blake Award, Yale Univ, 54. Mem: Inst Med-Nat Acad Sci. Mailing Add: NY Univ Med Ctr 550 First Ave New York NY 10016