

Personal memo from  
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

Dr. Allan Campbell.  
S. U. Biology.

DEC 28 1990

Senecavirus as pathogen.?

Dear Allan -

Benni Davis asked me to write  
a preface to "The Genetic Revolution";  
and he sent me a copy of your  
chapter.

I'm not endorsing the aerosol  
dissemination of Senecavirus in 1950;  
but I think you have accepted  
too uncritically that the same  
strain caused the fatal illness  
in the "NEVIN" case in San  
Francisco. That Senecavirus  
infections - and probably tumors -  
are caused by specific, unpigmented  
serotypes. They are not all that  
rare and can easily be confused as  
coincidences. You can ask Ken Vosti  
at Stanford Medical School for more  
background. The family obviously was  
eager to pin blame on the government.  
I think the case ruled they had not  
made a credible case.

Do you want to propagate a dubious  
myth?

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I looked up some of the history - see memo