



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

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October 16, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

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Dear Jim:

Thank you for your note of October 1 relative to nominations for the Nobel Prize in Medicine. As you may imagine this is an issue that I have had to engage in a variety of ways for a number of years. I decided long ago to take the responsibility of nomination as a personal rather than institutional one and already have several suggestions on the table that the Nobel Prize Committee until now has chosen to ignore. However, I will continue to press in those areas where I believe my personal familiarity with the history of a scientific development gives me particular credentials to formulate and transmit a case. It takes nothing away from the importance of cancer chemotherapy if I say that I do not believe I have that relationship to the field at the present time. What the future may bring is another story.

In the circumstances, I think the best strategy would be for you to submit the nomination over your own signature if, as you say, that is a formally acceptable procedure. If not, I have no objection to being an intermediary but I would designate the material in question as having been prepared by you or whatever group was responsible for it. I see no advantages to using this procedure if a formal nomination is possible by a more direct route.

By the way, the deadline for nominations is February 1, 1980.

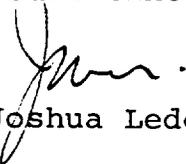
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I would be surprised if Lew Thomas has not been circularized in his administrative role and it would seem to me that a nomination in the field of cancer biology might have some additional credence were it to come from that institution.

Do you know of any review publication that summarizes the effective accomplishments of cancer chemotherapy? I am sure such an overview would be most helpful to the Nobel Committee and I would be glad to have your own recommendation as to what I should be reading for my own education.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg