

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

SPACE SCIENCE BOARD

March 21, 1962

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Joshua:


In view of the rapidly developing program in the life sciences at NASA (for example the recent appointment of a Director for Biosciences in the Office of Space Sciences and the prospects for a new biology office in the Office of Advanced Research and Technology), it appears desirable for the Space Science Board to establish a permanent Life Sciences Coordinating Group as a replacement for the ad hoc coordinating committee appointed in my letter to Dr. Pittendrigh on January 4, 1962.

This group, comprising the chairmen of the biology committees plus Dr. Hartline as consultant to the Board, would provide a focus for coordinating activities of the SSB life sciences committees and would be available to provide advice on the life sciences to NASA upon request: both the NASA Office of Space Sciences and the NASA Office of Advanced Research and Technology have specifically asked for Board assistance on their problems in biology. The committee will absorb all functions of the ad hoc life sciences coordinating committee; in particular, I expect that it will assume responsibility for completing at the earliest possible time the pending SSB position paper on bioastronautics.

It is also particularly timely that such a committee be constituted immediately and assume responsibility to assist Dr. Van Allen in planning for biological matters to be considered during the Space Science Summer Study.

I am therefore appointing the SSB Life Sciences Coordinating Group and wish to ask you to accept appointment to membership with Dr. Pittendrigh as Chairman. I know that you will give Colin your full support.

Sincerely yours,


L. V. Berkner
Chairman

cc: C. S. Pittendrigh