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DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE • HILL CENTER FOR THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES  
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November 11, 1977

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics, S331  
Stanford University Medical Center  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Josh,

In his message of Nov. 8, 1977, Elliott requested that comments about the Miller/Rand proposal be sent to you. Here are my comments.

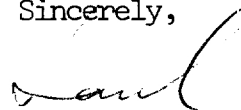
The ideas about a computer system to adjudicate claims for reimbursement are interesting from the point of view of AI in legal reasoning. This is a new area of activity in the AI field and it deserves support. It does have conceptual points of contact with diagnostic/interpretive reasoning but I find the relevance to AIM somewhat weak--especially at the present state of development of the project.

The Rand work on information processing psychology seems to be mainly oriented to the relationship between perceptual characteristics of linguistic stimuli and their conceptual processing. This is in the same general category as the U. of Pittsburgh research by Lesgold and Greeno. Unlike the Lesgold/Greeno work however, which has already started to use Anderson's ACT, the Rand work is intending to use a variety of fairly general techniques that are being used in other SUMEX-AIM projects (e.g. production rules). I find the argument for collaboration in the framework of AIM stronger in the Lesgold/Greeno case than in the Rand case.

I am uncomfortable with Jim Miller's request for the use of SUMEX-AIM to complete his dissertation work. Clearly, the main motivation is the difficulty with local computing at UCLA. This creates a bad precedent for admission to the resource. The request would be reasonable as part of a more general Rand program of participation in AIM. We do not have as yet such a program; and I don't find Hayes-Roth's document convincing and specific enough as a preliminary proposal for such a program.

In summary, I don't recommend the Miller/Rand project as a AIM-pilot project.

Sincerely,



Saul Amarel  
Professor and  
Chairman

SA/kb