

# THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

*pro bono humani generis*

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UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

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Dr. Fred W. McLafferty  
Accounts of Chemical Research

Dear Fred:

Thank you for asking me to join you on ACR. In fact, I do already subscribe, and get enormous profit from the odd article that does intersect my personal interests. You had some lately on RNA and on fullerenes that were outstanding!

What I have much too little focussed time for would be:

- a) close editorial review of mss., unless on a subject quite central to my current research interests, and
- b) personally hounding authors and reviewers to get them to agree or deliver about their assignments.

What I think I could help you with would be

- c) suggesting specific authors and articles, and
- d) overall directions and strategies for the journal.

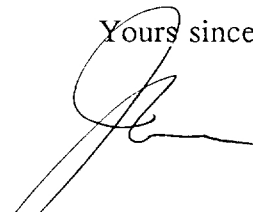
The latter two seem to be what you were asking, but I wanted to be doubly sure what was in the contract. But, unfortunately, I won't be at the ACS.

Your remarks about "broadening horizons" does appeal to me; and I would be particularly interested in suggesting themes that reflect the major opus of a given author's lifework (or chapter thereof) - not quite personal autobiographies, but, if you like, the biography of a scientific challenge in which the author has played a significant role. As I believe molecular biology is now thoroughly legitimated, I venture to suggest Charlie Yanofsky as a prototype of this kind of article. And look to John Drake for the (amazingly indirect) pathways involved in chemical mutagenesis. Turning to another field, perhaps Frank Field would be another. And I'd like to see an update on the cosmogony of the chemical elements, and another (briefly foreshadowed in the fullerene piece) on molecular condensation: from plasma to stars, planets and comets.

Yes, I am a fan of ACR; it is one of my lasting regrets that I never did write an article on DENDRAL that I had promised to your predecessor -- was that Barnette?

So, if the above is agreeable to you, my answer would be yes.

Yours sincerely,



*enc ODSG.  
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