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DR. J. LEDERBERG
KENNEDY LABORATORIES FOR MOLECULAR MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEAR DOCTOR LEDERBERG:

I TRUST THAT YOU WILL FORGIVE ME FOR MY PRESUMPTIOUSNESS IN TAKING THE LIBERTY OF WRITING THIS LETTER.

BRIEFLY MY PURPOSE IS AS FOLLOWS. I AM PREPARING THE OSLER LECTURE FOR 1965 WHICH IS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VANCOUVER MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. MY TOPIC IS "CREATIVITY IN MEDICINE". IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING THE VAST LITERATURE ON PROBLEMS OF CREATIVITY AS APPLIED TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, I AM MOST INTERESTED IN LEARNING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT OUR MOST CREATIVE SCIENTISTS, THAT HAVE BEEN NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE AND PHYSIOLOGY. UNFORTUNATELY NO EXTENSIVE BIOGRAPHY OF YOURSELF IS AVAILABLE TO ME.

SPECIFICALLY I AM MOST INTERESTED IN KNOWING:

1. HOW YOU WOULD CLASSIFY YOUR UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC CAREER; WERE YOU A TOP STUDENT OR AVERAGE STUDENT AS INDICATED BY YOUR MARKS AND CLASS STANDING
2. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT YOUR EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PLAYED ANY ROLE IN YOUR CREATIVE THINKING OR DID THIS ARISE PRIMARILY OUT OF AN INNATE QUESTIONING MIND
3. ARE YOU IN ANY WAY ABLE TO RECALL HOW YOU FIRST FORMULATED OR FIRST DEVELOPED THE IDEA WHICH LED TO THE DISCOVERIES CONCERNING GENETIC RECOMBINATION AND THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GENETIC MATERIAL IN BACTERIA; DO YOU FEEL THAT "SUDDEN INSPIRATION" PLAYED A ROLE OR DID YOUR CREATIVE THOUGHT DEVELOP PROGRESSIVELY ALONG CLEAR, CONSCIOUS LINES
4. DO YOU FEEL THAT TRULY CREATIVE IDEAS CAN RESULT OUT OF LARGE RESEARCH TEAMS, OR IS INDIVIDUAL, FREE RESEARCH MORE APT TO BE TRULY CREATIVE.

I TRULY REALIZE THE IMPOSITION OF ASKING YOU TO CONSIDER THE ABOVE QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, IF YOU SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY AND INCLINATION TO ANSWER THIS LETTER, YOU MAY BE SURE I WILL BE MOST APPRECIATIVE.

SINCERELY YOURS,



M.B. WALTERS, M.D.

MBW/MC