

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

JUN 22 1977

↓
Dr. Donald Frederickson, Director
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Md.

Dear Don:

Alex Rich passed on, after having talked with you, that you might have interpreted my last letter as reflecting a serious dissension at a time when, more than ever, we need to have clear and coherent understanding within the scientific community.

I am sorry that the tone of my writing lent itself to such an interpretation. My irony was directed at the EXTERNAL stresses; and I had hoped that the last sentence of my post-script would reflect the spirit of collegiality that, I agree, it is essential to sustain. I should know by now that irony is treacherous.

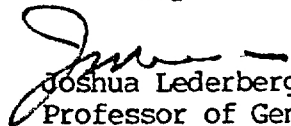
That letter was written before the story broke in the Washington Post — and you may get some idea of what I have to face from the fact that I still have not seen it, nor do I have any factual information about who said what about it: yet I have to infer that somehow our laboratory has been on trial!

My letter did not have a warm personal tone: I had in mind that it might be regarded as a communication from an accused to a judge, were it to reach the public record. I am sorry if that was misleading. We all know what a difficult struggle you are in, trying to sustain the integrity and viability of health research in this country.

I hope there may come some quieter time that we might discuss more constructive measures to bridge the important gaps that frustrate the realization of health advantages from that research, and in turn public support for the entire mission. Will you be attending the IOM/ Health Research Policy group on July 5?

I am writing now before having received the response that you told Alex was on the way.

Cordially,


Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics