

September 26, 1967

James L. Goddard, M.D.
Commissioner of Food and Drugs
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Food and Drug Administration
Washington, D.C. 20204

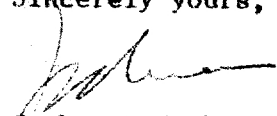
Dear Jim:

Thank you very much for sending me FDA Topics. This is just the magazine I was thinking about and I want to congratulate you for the skillful introduction of the positive as well as the punitive information it contains. I hope you can eventually get the authority and the funding to establish an independent information system to physicians that can undercut their present dependence on drug advertising.

About Dr. Hollaender as an Associate Commissioner for Science - I should have realized that my description of his qualifications didn't fit the job description that you left with me. I think he would be a splendid possibility for getting the ball rolling. You will face some criticism from his having had essentially no experience in the drug industry per se but there are enough analogies with radiation biology to make it worth while to pursue the matter nevertheless. Furthermore, if he could have an advisory board of distinguished people in drug research, not necessarily confined to the HAPBI group, this might mitigate a good deal of such criticism. In any case, I do see that it will be very difficult to get someone who might fill all of the desiderata equally well.

Another name that has occurred to me is Walsh McDermott. I would be surprised if you have not already thought of him and it might or might not be realistic to elicit his interest in the position. However that is a stumbling block there is certainly no harm in trying.

Sincerely yours,


Joshua Lederberg,
Professor of Genetics

JL/gem

GODDARD