

April 4, 1969

To: Dr. Paul Ehrlich  
Biology

From: Joshua Lederberg

Dear Paul:

I only just stumbled into the fact that you have been interested in fluctuating ~~asymmetry~~. It had occurred to me that we ought to try to construct a teratology index as a way of monitoring maternal health, and the possible impact of chemical agents in the environment. I have, however, not been able to find very much quantitative information on the incidence of minor asymmetry in man or other animals, nor on its relationship to things like maternal age that might be cues to its utility. If you know anything about this, would you let me know.