



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
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January 29, 1968

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Professor and Executive Head
Department of Genetics
School of Medicine
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94302

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am writing to you as a staff member of the Adult Development and Aging Branch of the NICHD. The interest of our Institute lies in the support of basic research in the biological, psychological, and sociological aspects of development and aging.

As you are well aware, many theories have been advanced concerning the etiology of the aging process, involving both endogenous and exogenous factors. Certainly, a genetic basis for aging has its proponents in the scientific community. It was, therefore, very interesting to read recently your remarks with regard to aging and genetics in your syndicated column which appears in the Washington Post. I refer to the article titled DNA Breakthrough Points Way to Therapy by Virus. In this article you state, "the replication of DNA in the test tube opens the way to a number of new approaches to the study and treatment of disease. It is virtually certain that in the long run, our mastery of cancer and of senility will be reached with the help of this stepping-stone."

We would certainly enjoy the opportunity to speak further with you concerning your views about the topic of aging. I am sure your schedule is a heavy one, but perhaps on one of our future trips to California we could make an appointment to discuss these areas of mutual interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Gabe J. Maletta, Ph.D.
Physiologist
Adult Development and Aging Branch
National Institute of Child Health
and Human Development