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July 9, 1962

Dr. R. Keith Cannan
Chairman, Division of Medical Sciences
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Cannan:

In your letter of July 3 you asked for my thoughts and suggestions regarding the ABCC program. My reactions primarily concerned the following:

- (a) the inadequacy of genetic analysis* of the material, even as a basis of pathological study, and
- (b) the very poor participation of Japanese geneticists.

These serious lacks might be remedied if it were accepted that radiation can form only part of the impetus for this study in human biology, and may prove to be the least meaningful. But good basic studies on the population may be the most effective way to generate what can be learned about radiation effects. This is also the premise most likely to attract the constructive interest of Japanese workers in genetics.

Dr. Crow is well aware of these considerations, and especially Dr. Neel, who has done so much to bring the genetic analysis of the material to its present level of usefulness.

Have Japanese geneticists ever been asked to study and comment on the program?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

*For example, no kindred analysis of the sample populations and not kindred analysis of the sample populations and no opportunity for sib-pair comparisons to discount stratification.

JL:edf

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