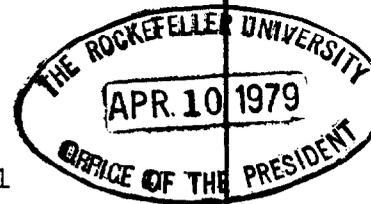


Dear Josh -
Fr I
my best - Frankie

137 East 66th Street
New York, N. Y. 10021
212-628-3821
April 7, 1979



Christopher Porterfield,
Producer
Daphne Productions
1790 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Porterfield:

I would like to suggest that Dick Cavett interview Joshua Lederberg, Nobel laureate, and recently (October 1978) installed President of the prestigious Rockefeller University in New York.

After the Three Mile Island affair, the public is more concerned than ever about the health hazards of the world we live in. They may also have experienced intensified feelings, mostly negative, about science 'experts'.

One rarely has an opportunity to hear from these experts, who, nevertheless, have an enormous impact on our lives. Dick Cavett is one of the few people in TV who will take on scientists and academicians, often with considerable success, in my opinion.

The problem is to find articulate scientists who can talk straight to the public. I believe you would find Lederberg such a person. He is unusually articulate, witty, and urbane. Most importantly, he is a concerned scientist. In the early 70s, he served as a consultant for the World Health Organization on the dangers of chemical and biological warfare. He also wrote a weekly column during this period for the Washington Post, where he expressed himself on the subject of extraterritorial life.

Lederberg is a Brooklyn-born son of a rabbi, one of 12 Jewish Nobel laureates in the country (out of 76). He has returned to New York to head the Rockefeller University after many years as Professor of Genetics at Stanford University in California.

He was an early genius. When ¹⁵⁰John was seven years old, he announced the following aspirations in a classroom essay: "I would like to be a scientist of mathematics like Einstein. I would like to study science and discover a few theories."

Sylvia Frank ↓

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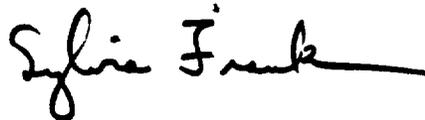
He received his Nobel Prize in 1958 for work begun at age 21, in the field of genetics, on the sexual recombination of bacteria. This work set the ground for present research on recombinant DNA an area of controversy among biologists. Some view it as dangerous. Genes from one type of cell can now be transferred to cells of another species, for example, mouse-human, and other combinations. The genes of one type of cell, once inside the host cell, can compel the host to synthesize chemicals which it ordinarily cannot accomplish. Are new monsters being created, or merely scientific marvels? Lederberg could discuss this issue, of course.

If you would arrange a pre-interview with him, I feel sure you would find him as articulate and interesting as I do.

Joshua Lederberg, President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10021
212-360-1000

I have known Josh since graduate student days at Columbia University. At present I am a New York based biologist and science writer. I would be happy to furnish additional information about this suggestion, at your request.

Sincerely yours,



Sylvia Frank, Ph.D.

