6/9/83

Joshua Lederberg

— Your triplets —

Dear Kop

That's an interesting case; and your hypothesis is certainly plausible. I can see no way to affirm or deny it case: a few other hypotheses occur to me.

A) accepting monozygosity

1) Perhaps a viral or toxic injury to one fetus preceded (and caused) the circulatory difference: a retarded fetus may evoke < vascular supply.

2) Postnatal stress may be the immediate modifier of the hypothalamic homeostat, whatever the etiology of that stress [dysnutrition...]

B) questioning monozygosity
(The data as given are thin. What were the parents' blood groups?)

1) H's failure to thrive reminds one of runt disease. That is, he may have been a chimaera with some "graft vs. host" immune reaction*. Chimaeras can be hard to diagnose. My colleagues at U. Wis. worked on resulting in dizygotic twins in animals. I might be able to dig out some of that literature if it's not already familiar to you.

Thank you for recalling your work of times past.

Joshua.

*or "free martin" effect