Personal Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

John Benzer

JUN 16 1986

Consanguinity test

Dear John -

A quite different question could be asked to test for a recessive gene basis of a trait with low penetrance (as halothane-sensitivity must be, needing halothane-exposure to see it).

If there is a recessive gene, then individuals with the trait will be progeny of consanguineous parents more often than otherwise. You have to ask specifically if the parents of your cases (and controls) are cousins.

Luca Cavalli-Sforza in Venice is an old hand at this.

Thanks for your letter & reprint.

Yours,

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY NEW YORK 10021