MAY - 1 1997

From the desk of

April 25, 1997

JOHN L. VANDEBERG, Ph.D.

John VandeBerg
P.O. Box 760549
San Antonio, TX 78245-0549

Dear Joshua,

As I sit on an airplane en route to Nepal to promote a Southwest Foundation project on genetics of susceptibility to helminths, I can't help but think with deep appreciation of your lecture at our Congress and your participation in many other ways. Although helminth parasites are not ever going to become a major problem for developed countries, they are a serious public health problem elsewhere & they provide a model system for investigating genetic & environmental relationships between pathogens & their hosts.

Your lecture was especially stimulating to me, because for several years I have been fostering an extension of our institution's activities from a focus on the chronic diseases to inclusion of infectious diseases, particularly in regard to the genetics of susceptibility.

OVER

You will receive a formal letter of thanks soon for your contributions to the success of our Congress, but I want to thank you personally for all that you did to enrich the experience of the many participants including myself.

When I return to San Antonio, I shall look into the feasibility of preserving serum and stem cells from chord blood, as well as placentas. I also will send you a brief prospectus for establishing and maintaining a cohort of baboons for research on osteoporosis, menopause, and other diseases of aging as well as on the basic biology of the aging process. I think we can provide a critical national resource in return for a reasonable investment of funding.

All best wishes, Sincerely, John