

Memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

To: Dr B S Blumberg

AUG 11 1971

re-- Australia antigen. (23)

I hope oversimplification isn't betrayal.

Lots of questions keep crowding my thoughts on
this-- surely yours, a *ffortiori*.

How certain is it that the 'segregating' antigen
is infectious? Obviously, it would be rather sus-
picious to see a recessive antigen; but is it ex-
cluded that you have just this (like some Lewis-
like phenomenon), and a fortuitous cross-reaction
with (perhaps even tolerance to) a hepatitis virus?

Do you have any views on the origin of the
"class"-stratification of HAA, e.g., among paid
donors? (Cf. my speculative extrapolation of your
anthropological-genetic picture to the U.S. situa-
tion.)

Anyhow, all this is put down in a spirit of
unmitigated admiration; which flattery, I hope,
will not deter you from correcting any errors of
fact that may be contaminating my own thinking
about these problems.

Sincerely,



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