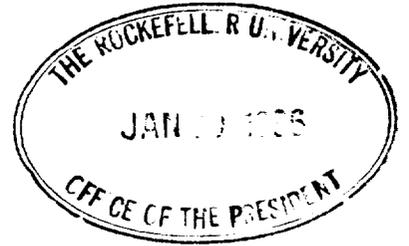


NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

January 27, 1986

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Wil Lybrand, who is no longer at the Institute, recently passed to me your note to him regarding cooperation with the USSR and individuals with a current interest in preventing the development of biological weapons. I can offer only a little information in each area.

The Committee on International Scientific Cooperation in Health, which you identified in the NAS Organizational Directory, is concerned with promotion of regional collaboration on health research in the Middle East, although in retrospect that was not clear in the description in the old directory.

In early 1985 the Institute created a standing Board on International Health and that body has expressed a strong interest in indentifying possible areas of collaboration with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The National Academy of Sciences is finalizing a new agreement with the Soviet Academy. At a forthcoming meeting the Institute's Council will discuss the scope of its international activities and further efforts may be proposed, for example, collaboration with the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences.

In November 1985 the Institute convened an international symposium on the Medical Implications of Nuclear War, at which Dr. Nikolay Bochkov of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences (Institute of Medical Genetics) made a presentation. Other than this activity there has been little contact involving IOM.

I am aware, however, that Ken Warren of the Rockefeller Foundation, Donald Henderson of Johns Hopkins University, and Tony Robbins of the House Commerce and Energy Committee staff have been in contact with individuals in the USSR regarding vaccine supply and development for the third world.

In regard to the question of preventing the development of biological weapons, the only individual that I can suggest is Richard Novick (a bacteriologist), Director, New York Public Health Research Institute, who testified recently on this issue before the House Commerce and Energy Oversight Committee. Susan Wright of the University of Michigan is interested in policy and funding issues in this area. Terry Goldberg of the Boston-based Committee for Responsible Genetics (617-227-8035) may be able to provide more suggestions.

I hope this information is useful. Please call if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Roy Widdus

Roy Widdus, Ph.D.
Director
Division of International Health