Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I tried to find you late Thursday afternoon and Friday morning to say goodbye to you and to thank you for having invited me to the Symposium on Genetics in Medical Research. Not having been able to say this to you in person, I want to convey it to you by this letter. I'm sure that the Symposium has done precisely what you had planned for it, namely to stimulate interest in medical genetics. I have a distinct feeling that there is a growing interest in this field which in due time will lead not only to more research, but also to a better understanding among practising physicians of the genetic problems involved. I have recently sat in at a National Panel Discussion of the Etiology of mental disease where the problem was discussed by catholic priests, protestant ministers, psychoanalysts and psychologists, none of whom even hinted at the possible genetic contribution.

The Madison meeting was of particular value to me not only for meeting personally Dr. Clarke and Dr. Buckwalter with whom I have corresponded for some time, but also because it widened my horizon with respect to a number of areas of genetic research.

You will understand that my appreciation of your invitation is a very real one.

Sincerely yours,

Ernst Mayr

EM:PS