May 29, 1958

Dr. Selman A. Waksman
Institute of Microbiology
Rutgers - The State University
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Waksman:

I was very gratified to have your invitation to serve on the Advisory Board.

I was very much tempted to accept this honor, but a moment's reflection made it too obvious how much my scientific activity is already impaired by the travel commitments I already have. This is a selfish attitude, and my writing is tinged with a certain self-reproach, especially as I am deeply interested in the continued success of your Institute.

It is only reasonable that you should continue to draw upon the large pool of talent which resides near you on the East Coast. I hope it would not be presumptuous of me to suggest that Professor B. D. Davis at Harvard Medical School would be a fitting successor to Dr. Dubos' position. This cannot have failed to occur to you, but I mention his name knowing that Bernie shares my felicitous interest. Another candidate you might wish to consider is Hilary Koprowski, but perhaps it is not my place to deflect your invitation with alternative suggestions.

With kind personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Chairman, Department of Medical Genetics

JL/ew