



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

JUL 31 1974

Arfensen

July 25, 1974

Members of the Scientific and Academic
Advisory Committee (SAAC)
Board of ~~Governors~~
The Weizmann Institute of Science

Dear Colleagues:

The Weizmann Institute has now passed through approximately one generation, on a human time scale. A gradual replacement of the pioneering leaders of the various scientific divisions of the Institute with younger men, who carry on the scientific direction, has, and is, taking place. The Institute has suffered the reverberations that inevitably occurred with three turnovers in presidencies in the past five or six years. Finally, there have been the enormous economic and organizational difficulties resulting from the fragile and twice-broken political stalemate in the Middle East.

Many of us have participated in the annual meetings of the Board of Governors over the past years but I feel with insufficient attention to our real responsibilities. At this particular time when a committee, consisting mainly of nonscientific members of the Board, is considering the future of the Presidency of the Institute and is also proposing to debate at some length the future directions of research and administration at the Institute, I feel that it is especially important for the scientific members of the Board to serve, in a sense, as the Judiciary Committee in the House serves in the Watergate discussions. There are strong pros and strong cons being disseminated in relation to the state of the Institute and its future. Many of the cons reflect, perfectly understandably and even justifiably, allegiance to "what was" and to the great early days of Weizmann, Meyer Weisgal, and growth. I have discovered a large number of pros, particularly among the working population of the Institute and among many of the scientific governors, who are not so strongly in contact with the machinations taking place in the upper strata of administration and financing, but are aware of and concerned with day to day production of high-class science (much of which is being done at the Weizmann Institute).

*Chris - I'm sorry (etc personal reasons) I will not be able to attend this November. I will be in Israel early January. Do you foresee anything useful I could do then?
Jacob*

July 25, 1974

It would be of considerable service to the Institute as a whole, and this includes both the pros and the cons mentioned above, for us to try and arrive in Rehovot for the Board of Governors meeting a bit early. I would be very appreciative if you could let me know as soon as possible whether you could come on October 30, in time to spend a full day or two doing some serious visiting with scientific colleagues at the Institute in your own specialty and with others whom you might know, and for an executive session sometime before the Weizmann Centenary extravaganzas begin on November 3 and 4. I spoke to Arthur Kornberg last night and he agreed that, for optimal use of time in Rehovot, we might forgo one or two of the celebrating events.

Best regards,


C. B. Anfinsen

cc: Dr. Dinstein
Mr. Feinberg
Mr. Ginsburg
Mr. Kahane
Mr. Kleeman
Sir Marcus Sieff
Mr. Stulman
Mr. Tolkowsky
Mr. Weisgal