

R. Lyman file



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

October 1, 1980

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Richard Lyman
President
The Rockefeller Foundation
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036

Dear Dick:

I have been sending you a stream of material about various and potential candidates for your vice presidency. Judging from the fact that people like Arno Motulsky have expressed an interest I am beginning to suspect that you will in fact have the very happy problem of choice amongst a slate of really first class people, which would certainly include someone like Arno. I don't know if you have any way to recall that he was, at least in my own opinion, a very strong candidate for the chair in medicine at Stanford.

Arno is a person of very broad culture in biology and medicine, having very beautifully straddled some very basic issues as well as clinical applications in medical genetics. He is also a person of great sensitivity as I think you will also find from David Hamburg who, again, knows him very well.

My main reservation -- if indeed it is one -- about Arno is in fact his: he is not really completely sure about moving from his present situation to a career that would involve a total abjuration of laboratory interests; and one of his queries to me was whether in the final event there could also be the possibility of some affiliation with The Rockefeller University. I don't know whether that is consistent with the responsibilities of the job you are trying to fill. On the other hand if there were some way that that could be constellated, I can assure you that he would be greeted here with the utmost enthusiasm; and we would certainly do our best to find some de facto arrangement that could meet general satisfaction.

He was in town Friday for the meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics and for the planning of the International Congress of Human Genetics to be held in Jerusalem

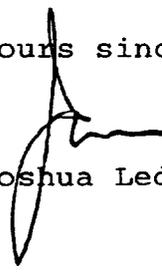
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next October, for which he is one of the principal entrepreneurs. Obviously, on account of your own absence, there was no possibility of your seeing him last week. He told me that it would be feasible for him to be in New York on Thursday, October 16th and of course if that were to be of any interest to you, you can contact him directly. He said his schedule for the next several months did not leave many other openings.

I've known Arno very well for many years and have always enjoyed his good sense and personal warmth as well as the other qualities that are documented in the C.V. that I sent you.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg