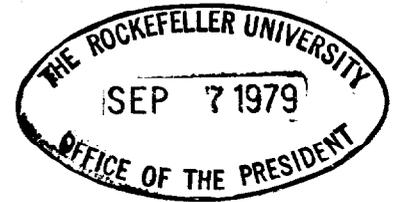




24th August, 1979



Professor Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
New York, N.Y. 10021

Dear Professor Lederberg,

As President of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, I should like to ask you to serve as a member of an international committee of life scientists from the United States and Europe. This committee is to serve as a Scientific Advisory Board to myself and to the Dean of our Faculty of Medicine, which will set up the framework for the proper running and academic supervision of the new Rappaport Medical Research Center in the years to come. As you might know, this Center is nearing completion and should start functioning in about a year's time. Your recommendations and conclusions will help us in setting up the Rappaport Medical Research Center.

Following are some facts and figures about our Faculty of Medicine and the Technion:

1. The Technion is the oldest institute of higher learning in Israel and consists of 7 faculties of science, 12 faculties and departments of engineering, a faculty of architecture and a faculty of medicine.

2. The medical school was formed in 1969 following a government decision, initially with the purpose of providing medical studies from the 4th year, to consist of one year of pre-clinical studies and two years of clinical studies, followed by one year of internship.

In 1971 the medical school merged with the Technion, in the firm belief that its purpose and aims required the help of the science and engineering disciplines - in a form entirely different from that of the other two schools of medicine in Israel.

3. At the moment the medical school is based on two years of studies within the general framework of science instruction at the Technion, and is followed by instruction pertaining to core and electives in the pre-clinical years which take place on the campus of the faculty of medicine, and the clinical years of study in the two government hospitals in Haifa which contain a total of 1500 beds, altogether 6 years of study and an additional year of internship.

4. Four years ago the Technion was enabled, through a generous contribution from the Rappaport Family of Geneva, to commence building a complex for the medical school which would comprise all its facets, as well as a Medical Research Center, in an area covering 30,000 sq.m., to include an animal house covering 1,400 sq.m. as well as a library and lounge covering 3,700 sq.m. (see enclosed photograph).

5. In October this year we shall be dedicating the study areas and the library of the new building, and in 12 to 18 months after that we hope to dedicate the research areas.

6. Bearing in mind the changing trends in medical research, this building was designed to ensure that all facilities will be sufficiently flexible and functional to meet the needs of both present and future researchers.

7. At present we have research groups in the fields of Biochemistry, Biophysics & Physiology, Immunology, Microbiology & Virology, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Cancer Immunology, Pharmacology, Cell Biology & Genetics, Clinical Nephrology, as well as the various clinical departments in our affiliated hospitals.

We firmly believe that by bringing together in the new Rappaport Medical Research Building, under one roof, highly trained investigators in the basic biological sciences together with inquisitive minded and dedicated physicians, we can encourage, increase and expand joint research projects with medical science orientation. Such close contact between the basic sciences, biomedical engineering, many technological fields and clinical medicine is indispensable. It should help us to achieve our ultimate goal of being able to apply discoveries made in the laboratory in a clinical setting. To facilitate this often complex application of experimentally derived knowledge to therapy and prophylaxis of human disease, it is essential to build a modern medical research center which should work closely with large modern teaching hospitals.

The establishment of such a Medical Research Institute within the framework of our Medical School and teaching hospitals will provide facilities for physicians to share their time between clinic and research laboratory; for foreign visitors on sabbatical leave; for colleagues from the pharmaceutical industries and from biomedical engineering, and the training of new generations of medical researchers, who will all contribute to our knowledge of cellular and molecular mechanisms in health and disease.

For your information I give you below the text of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee meeting which took place in Geneva on July 4, 1978 at which it was decided to set up the Scientific Advisory Committee:

"The Rappaport Medical Research Center will serve as a research arm of the medical school aiming at the progress and excellence of medical research in all fields.

The Dean of the School of Medicine will be responsible for the operation of the Center as part of his duties and responsibilities.

A scientific advisory committee concerning the Rappaport Medical Center will be appointed by the President of the Technion after consultation with the Dean of the medical school.

- 3 -

The Committee will be composed of 6 members not members of the Technion (Professors Emeritus are eligible for membership in the committee). The Dean and one elected member of the faculty council will be invited to participate in the deliberations of the advisory committee without the privilege of voting.

The report of the committee will be submitted to the President of the Technion and the Dean of the medical school.

Members of the advisory committee will be elected for 5 years but the first committee will be elected as follows:

- 2 members for 3 years
- 2 members for 4 years
- 2 members for 5 years.

One member of the committee will serve as the chairman and be elected by the committee. "

I am aware of the unusual nature of our request to a personality of your standing, and the heavy demands of the task that we are asking you to undertake. However, only people with your knowledge and background can provide the required stimulation and development of a research center which should have no rival among the medical schools in Israel. With the proper drive and incentive we can provide an unprecedented opportunity for the development of a unique medical school within the framework of the Technion.

I realise that it is not possible in a letter to outline for you all that we desire to achieve from your participation and cooperation. I am certain that the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine will be at your disposal to answer any questions that may arise.

As a first practical step we should like - and earnestly request - your willingness in principle to attend a first meeting of the Advisory Committee in the second week of November. Until then we shall submit to you further material on the research set-up as it stands today and the future plans of the medical school which will serve as background material for the committee to work on. ✓

Let me stress once again the great importance we attach to this request for your participation in an endeavour which will benefit both our Institute in particular and the future of medical research in Israel as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

A. Horev

Gen. (Res.) A. Horev
President

cc Prof. David Barzilai
Dean, Faculty of Medicine