

Coudert, A. C.



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10021

April 25, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. Alfred C. Coudert  
President  
Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation, Inc.  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Dr. Coudert:

Dr. Borowska has shared with me her applications to the Foundation for the continued funding of her research. She has also shown me your letter to her dated February 14 in which you indicated the natural desire of the Foundation to have a letter of endorsement from this office.

In the interval I have had an excellent opportunity to discuss Dr. Borowska's work directly with her and also with several of her knowledgeable colleagues on this campus. I am therefore in an excellent position to respond to this indication, which would not have been the case during the first few months after my arrival at the Rockefeller University last fall.

As you know, Dr. Borowska worked for some years in the laboratory of the late Professor Edward L. Tatum and there are many records of the very high esteem in which he held her during that time. The other side of that relationship, however, was that Dr. Tatum had assumed personal responsibility for the funding and the support of Dr. Borowska's work, which gave her a sheltered environment but which deprived her of the experience of independent responsibility for the fiscal side of her work. The time just before Professor Tatum's death, in November 1975, and since then, have been very difficult for Dr. Borowska on account of the disruption when that source of stability disappeared.

At this time, The Rockefeller University is undertaking a serious examination of the academic place that Dr. Borowska should hold on our faculty, taking account of

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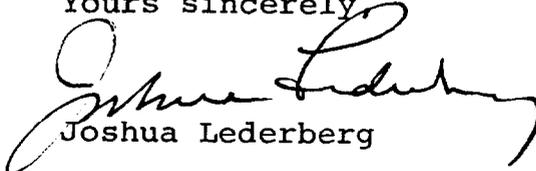
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all of the above circumstances. However, there is no doubt of the excellent quality of her work on the anti-biotic edeine, which she has pursued almost single-handedly from a wide variety of scientific and medical viewpoints. We are all eager to see that Dr. Borowska has the opportunity to continue these important investigations and to develop her capabilities as a fully independent investigator. The assurance of funding from the Foundation would be indispensable to helping Dr. Borowska get back to her feet and enter the normal pattern of qualification for academic advancement for which I would wish to give her every possible personal encouragement.

Dr. Borowska's personal and academic circumstances are most unusual and certainly deserve compassionate consideration. I have to say, however, that the number of permanently endowed tenured professorships at this University are very severely limited owing to fiscal restrictions, and will remain so unless and until substantial sources of permanent endowment support can be found. Dr. Borowska will find herself in competition with other investigators of international renown when the time comes for her consideration for a position in that category; and it is impossible at this time to predict the outcome. Apart from her academic qualifications there are also questions of priority choices for fields of research which depend in part on scientific judgements, in part on the practical and material problems of enduring support. With these cautionary remarks, I do not mean in any way to diminish the luster of Dr. Borowska's promise as an able and competent investigator but it would be equally inappropriate for me to leave implications of a commitment on the University's part of a permanent character that might be beyond our means to fulfill.

I welcome support from the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation as a way to sustain the scientifically valuable efforts of an able and dedicated investigator.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg

bec: TS