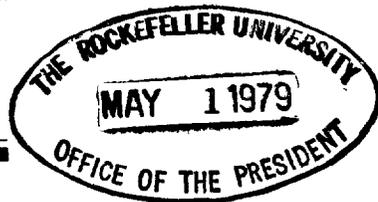

The News World

401 FIFTH AVENUE □ NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016 □ (212) 532-8300

April 27, 1979



Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I am writing you in my capacity as a regular contributor to THE NEWS WORLD, a daily and Sunday newspaper in New York City with a circulation of nearly 100,000 copies per day. My reason for writing is to request a brief interview with you for publication. Permit me to clarify my rationale in approaching you.

As you are well aware, there is a great deal of public misunderstanding about science. Many scientists today are concerned about the recent trend of decline in funding for basic research in the face of increasing demands for "relevance" and more immediate practical applications of research findings. I do believe, therefore, that it is in the best interests of the scientific community to communicate to the public. This will, I believe, contribute to "de-mystifying" scientific activity by making it more comprehensible and accessible to the layman. Especially in light of recent controversy over such issues as the safety of recombinant DNA research and of nuclear energy, the need for balanced public understanding of science is greater than ever before.

I do hope, therefore, that you would consider my request for a brief interview. What I hope to achieve by such an interview is to demonstrate that scientists are human beings with conscience, compassion, and concern for the human condition. Please let me hear from you in the near future.

With Kind Regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard R. Wojcik".

Richard R. Wojcik
THE NEWS WORLD

RRW:jn

→ BB: what do you think?
SC