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HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL



BETH ISRAEL HOSPITAL

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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June 2, 1972

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Stanford Medical Center  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

In advance of our meeting in Princeton you might be willing to glance at the following description of some thoughts and plans that I have for the School of Public Health.

It is my hope that members of several Faculties of the University might be enlisted in programs designed to promote education, research and public service in many areas of public health, including health services delivery, environmental health, drugs and alcohol, technology and medicine, health education, mental health, international public health, industrial medicine, decision-making in medicine, evaluation in medicine, chronic diseases, geriatrics, and others. I believe that significant progress can be made in certain contemporary health problems through participation of people from such disciplines as Arts and Sciences, Law, Public Policy, Education, Business Administration, Urban Planning, and others, as well as Medicine and Public Health. My preliminary inquiries of colleagues in some of the other Faculties concerning their possible participation in such programs have met with considerable enthusiasm.

I have set up within the Dean's Office of the School of Public Health an Office of Program Planning. This Office will be responsible for coordinating a series of panels, each dealing with a specific problem in the public health realm, such as those suggested above. Each panel will include representatives from several Faculties and some from people outside the University. Each will be asked to examine the state of the problem, to assess the contribution that might be made by a School of Public Health, and particularly that at Harvard, and to suggest people who might be enlisted to help realize such a contribution. Emphasis will be placed on questions where an impact in terms of public action can be expected within a finite period. A priority of problems will be established, with earliest attention given to those where contributions are most urgently needed, where progress is most likely, and where first-rate people who will participate can be identified. Research at both the theoretical and the pragmatic levels will involve interdisciplinary cooperation, and teaching programs will be directed at both undergraduates and students from several of the graduate schools, including, of course, students of Public Health. Projects that lead to recommendations for action will be regarded as incomplete until such action is underway.

*pr June 7.*

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

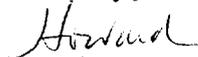
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I hope that at the meeting we can consider the over-all approach, the problems that you consider most pressing and most appropriate for the School, and people whom we might consider recruiting, both for participation on panels and for subsequent involvement. People in the latter category can be those from the University who might be willing to contribute on a part-time basis, the occasional person from some part of the University who wishes to make a full-time commitment, and those from outside the University who might be recruited.

I look forward to our meeting on June 7 at 2 p.m. in Dave Rogers' office.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,



Howard H. Hiatt

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