DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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March 2, 1971

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Joshua:

Thanks for your note regarding the moneys that has just been released to NIGMS for genetic research. It is gratifying to know of your continuing concern for the Collaborative Study. These funds, alas, will not affect the Study as such.

The cut that I discussed with you over the phone turned out to be bigger than we anticipated -- 2.1 million, or approximately 30% of our budget. We all tightened our belts so as not to drop some institutions and thus jeopardize the chromosomal study, and our collaborators have been very understanding. I am not sure how these economics will be effected but data collection will go on. As you may know, the chromosomal study has been funded as of January 1, 1971 and collection of blood samples has already begun.

You may be interested to know of some other genetics-related extensions of the Study and how they are developing. Jim Neel proposed that, in collaboration with his group, we develop an ethnicity index for primarily the Negro children in the Study using polymorphic blood loci and anthropometric characteristics. This, of course, would be essential in any analysis involving IQ, congenital malformations, etc. as outcome variables. The proposal has been approved but we cannot fund it as a contract because it will be very costly. The NICHD is interested in it if it were submitted as a grant application but Jim is not willing to handle it that way. We decided, if we can get the money, to collect the bloods now and type them later if the money situation eases up.

You may have also heard that the NHI received a special appropriation of five million for research in sickle-cell anemia. They have no idea

how to go about spending it and they are interested in developing a project using Collaborative Study data. We are now in the process of developing such a proposal with them and Bob Murray (at Howard U.) to study the effects of sickling in the mother on the outcome of pregnancy and the growth and development of children who are themselves sicklers. Bob will do the electrophoresis in his laboratory.

All of these things, of course, do not affect the progress of the Collaborative Study but are logical extensions of it and they will pay off -- if they will let us finish the Study itself.

We will be delighted to see you and your wife when yourare next in Washington.

Very sincerely,

Ntinos C. Myrianthopoulos, Ph.D.
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