



May 16, 1996

Health Resources and  
Services Administration  
Rockville MD 20857

Rabbi Joseph Ekstein, Executive Director  
Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, Development Coordinator  
Committee for Prevention of Jewish Genetic Diseases  
Dor Yeshorim  
160 Wilson Street, 1-B  
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Dear Rabbi Ekstein and Rabbi Lefkowitz:

Thank you very much for sharing with me the exciting news that you and Dor Yeshorim will be the recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leadership Award for this year. This is indeed a great honor that is well deserved. Without your leadership, commitment and perseverance, Dor Yeshorim could not have accomplished what it has.

During the past several years, your project has truly provided a much needed service to a very special community whose needs could not have been adequately addressed by the mainstream health care system. You have designed and administered a most unique, culturally sensitive and relevant genetic services program which has successfully prevented much human suffering and reduced health care cost significantly as well. The Genetic Services Branch of the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration is pleased to have provided funding for this important demonstration project as a Project of Regional and National Significance (SPRANS). As cultural diversity and control of health care cost become increasingly important considerations in meeting the health care needs of the American people, I sincerely hope that your outstanding success story will encourage others, particularly racial and ethnic minorities, to provide the type of community leadership and culturally appropriate health services you have so ably demonstrated in this SPRANS. It is my personal view that ethnocultural barriers are one of the most important but least noted deterrents to access to health services. That is why I introduced this category of SPRANS to overcome ethnocultural barriers to genetic services some years ago. Under your leadership, your project has clearly demonstrated that such barriers can be overcome.

I deeply appreciate your invitation to join you at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation award ceremony on May 29. It is wonderful to have achieved what you have done for your community, and to be recognized by this important award. I look forward to joining you at this most joyous occasion to celebrate this important event.

Sincerely yours,

*Jane S. Lin-Fu, M.D.*

Jane S. Lin-Fu, M.D.  
Chief  
Genetic Services Branch  
Division of Services for Children  
with Special Health Needs