

Mayo Clinic

Rochester, Minnesota 55905 Telephone 507 284-2511

Hymie Gordon, M.D.
Medical Genetics

February 15, 1989

Rabbi Josef Eckstein
Director, Dor Yeshorim
160 Wilson Street, 1B
Brooklyn, NY 11211

My dear Rabbi Eckstein:

I have only recently learned about Dor Yeshorim and I congratulate you on the successful implementation of its program to prevent Tay-Sachs disease in Ashkenazi-Jewish communities.

The Dor Yeshorim program must be a great source of comfort to Orthodox Jewish families and physicians. I particularly commend its emphasis on pre-marital testing. In my frequent lectures to physicians, medical students and lay persons, and in my counselling of individual families, I always emphasize the importance of pre-marital counselling for all genetic and possible genetic conditions. Your program, therefore, is entirely consistent with what I have recommended in my Clinical Genetics practice for many years.

I hope it will not be too long before suitable tests are developed for screening young Jewish couples for Gaucher disease and perhaps for the other genetic disorders that occur more frequently in Jews.

No doubt, your program will be closely watched by other persons interested in the prevention of genetic diseases by pre-marital testing and counselling. Your program could be a model for other communities, not only Ashkenazi-Jewish communities, in whom specific genetic diseases occur with unusual frequency.

I wish your program continued success.

Yours sincerely,



Hymie Gordon MD, FRCP
Chairman
Department of Medical Genetics

HG/sjo