



N

Edwin H. Kolodny, M.D.
Bernard A. and Charlotte Marden
Professor & Chairman
Department of Neurology
New York University School of Medicine

550 First Avenue, New York, NY 10016
(212) 263-6549 Fax: (212) 263-8228

September 15, 1997

Rabbi Josef Ekstein
Dor Yeshorim
160 Wilson Street, Suite 1-B
Brooklyn, NY 11211

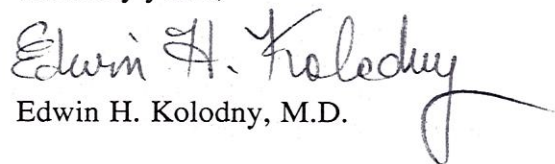
Dear Rabbi Ekstein:

I am pleased with the growing recognition among the traditional Jewish community as well as medical professionals of the importance of the Dor Yeshorim program in preventing Jewish genetic diseases. It is marvelous to think that shidduchim can be proposed with the assurance that marital happiness will not be disturbed by Tay-Sachs disease, Canavan disease, cystic fibrosis or Fanconi's anemia. That this can be done today with full respect for all the laws of our tradition is a remarkable advance over the "take-your-chances approach" of just one or two generations ago.

If the program of Dor Yeshorim is to succeed, it must, however, be adhered to in all its respects. Each element of the program is dependent upon all other elements and we cannot relax our standards to make exceptions. The laboratories performing the tests must have rigorous quality control. The young people we test must be anonymous and we cannot disclose to them their test results, only whether two people are compatible or not based on both having been tested voluntarily and submission of their test numbers for a determination of their suitability for marriage. Any deviation from this plan could lead to negative consequences with loss of community acceptance and individual grief to the families involved.

With proper education and motivation, I believe the Dor Yeshorim program will continue to grow and bring comfort and safety to Jewish families everywhere.

Sincerely yours,


Edwin H. Kolodny, M.D.

EHK:rmj