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Genetics Counseling Program
Genetics Laboratory
Birth Defects Center
Cleft Palate Center
Genetics Laboratory at
Letchworth Village D.C.

THE PROBLEM OF JEWISH GENETIC DISEASES IN THE
NEW YORK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY

This letter is to endorse the testing for Tay-Sachs Disease carrier detection in the religious Jewish community as it is being carried out by Chevra Dor Yeshurim in cooperation with the Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

Tay-Sachs Disease is a Jewish genetic disease that results in tragedy for the baby and the family. There is no successful treatment and it is invariably fatal. The carrier detection enables determination of matches which are incompatible in which the couple will have a 25% risk for having a child with Tay-Sachs Disease. The blood testing is simple and conducted at Mt. Sinai in accord with Jewish tradition; the boys and girls are tested on different days or at different times of the day. All testing is done in a strictly confidential manner and individuals are identified only by a special assigned number.

I enthusiastically support and encourage this program of Mt. Sinai Medical Center in conjunction with Chevra Dor Yeshurim which will surely result in families being spared the tragedy of Tay-Sachs Disease

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Shapiro', written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence R. Shapiro, M.D.
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