

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

2101 CONSTITUTION AVENUE WASHINGTON, D. C. 20418

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

November 20, 1987

Dr. Matthew S Meselson
Biochemistry Department
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Meselson:

One of the most pressing issues we currently face is whether, in the face of adverse demographic trends and strong preferences for material rewards and immediate gratification among today's youth, we will be able to continue to recruit the most academically talented students to research careers. The National Research Council plays an important role in these recruiting efforts through its involvement in the selection of such students for doctoral and postdoctoral awards. Those who are selected for such awards will be a vital part of our next generation of research scholars. Thus, the selection process must be such that it yields students with the strongest academic capabilities and the intellectual curiosity that is vital to productive scholarly careers.

I am pleased, therefore, to invite you to participate in this process. Specifically, I hope you will agree to serve as a member of the Biochemistry & Biophysics panel of the National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship Program. While we exert substantial effort to assure that the panels convened to make these selections are broadly representative, it is especially important that they include a strong component of our most distinguished scientists and engineers. This view is strongly endorsed by the Governing Board of the Research Council, which has urged that every opportunity be taken to bring members of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine into the work of the Research Council, and in particular, into the work of these selection panels. It is especially important for the science and engineering community to demonstrate its support for this program.

Panels will convene at 1:00 p.m., Monday, February 8, 1988 at the National Academy of Sciences, Georgetown Facility, Cecil and Ida Green Building, located at 2001 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The work of the panel is expected to be completed by noon on Thursday, February 11, 1988.

November 20, 1987
Page Two

Panelists will be reimbursed for transportation and subsistence expenses. Subsistence expenses will include reasonable hotel costs and an actual-cost reimbursement up to \$33 per day for meals. No advance preparation will be necessary. One week before the meetings, however, you will be provided with information about evaluation procedures.

I hope you will accept my invitation and look forward to an early response. You may respond to Ms. Joanne Rogers by completing and returning the attached form, or by telephone (202) 334-2924 or 334-2862.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Press
Chairman

Enclosure