



**Modern Plagues:  
Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases  
Press Seminar**

Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research  
9 Cambridge Center  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142-1479

Massachusetts General Hospital  
Development and Public Affairs  
MGH - M01410, 101 Merrimac Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-4719

May 2, 1997

Matthew Meselson, Ph.D.  
Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Harvard University  
7 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Dr. Meselson:

We are delighted that you plan to participate in the press seminar, "Modern Plagues: Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases," sponsored by the Whitehead Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital on May 29 and 30, 1997.

Over the next few weeks, we plan to assemble for the press a binder packed with useful information about the talks, speakers, and the seminar in general. To complete these packets, we need the materials mentioned in the enclosed checklist. Please send them to us by May 15.

Also on the checklist, we ask you about your interest in two social events:

- A reception on Thursday, May 29, at the Harvard Club in Boston will offer a pleasant evening and an excellent opportunity to meet the journalists who will be covering your work in coming years.
- A luncheon at the Mass. General Hospital on Friday will provide another chance to mingle with the press and will feature a lecture on research's part in the war on infectious disease by Samuel Thier.

We also need to know about any special AV needs you might have. We will supply the standard AV equipment (slide projector, overhead projector, blackboard, etc.) for your talk, but if you need anything unusual, please contact us by May 15 so that we can make arrangements.

Finally, we will be putting together a "tip sheet" of story ideas based on the talks at the seminar. We will call you during the next few weeks to gather information for these sheets.

Please note that Day 1 (Thursday, May 29) will be held in the McGovern Auditorium at the Whitehead Institute and Day 2 (Friday, May 30) will be held in the Wellman Conference Room at Massachusetts General Hospital. If you have questions about any aspect of the seminar, please call me at (617) 258-6153. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Seema Kumar  
Associate Director, Public Affairs  
Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research