

ALBERTS

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National Research Council

January 24, 2002

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

Dear Matt:

I am pleased to offer you reappointment to the Academy's Biological Weapons Working Group for a two-year term beginning February 1, 2002. We value your past service and hope you will continue participating in the working group's activities.

As you know, the Biological Weapons Working Group has a long history of meaningful contribution to the reduction of the threats from biological weapons. During this time of increased awareness of the risks posed by biological weapons and bioterrorism, the activities of the working group assume a special significance and are as important as they have ever been. The recent anthrax attacks testify to the need for improved oversight of biological research, and the international consultations that the working group is about to undertake will contribute substantially to that effort. A brief description of those consultations is included with this letter.

If you have any questions about your appointment or other matters relating to the working group, I suggest that you contact Dr. Richard Bissell, Executive Director of our Policy and Global Affairs division. His number is (202) 334-2425.

I hope you will agree to continue your service in an area of importance to all of us. I am confident that you will continue to make a significant contribution and to find it an interesting and rewarding experience.

Sincerely,



Bruce Alberts  
President  
National Academy of Sciences

