

June 26, 1972

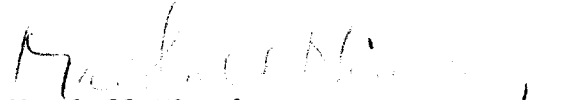
Dennis Flanagan, Editor  
Scientific American  
415 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York 10017

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

Thank you for your kind invitation to write a small book on the genetic code.

For the last five years I have been working on a different kind of coding problem—namely, how neurons are assembled into functional circuits during the development of the nervous system and how neurons encode and decode information. So at the present time I am not interested in writing a book on the genetic code but might in a year or so consider writing an article for the Scientific American on neural coding.

Sincerely yours,

  
Marshall Nirenberg  
Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics  
National Heart and Lung Institute