

July 5, 1977

Professor C. G. Bernhard
The Royal Swedish Academy of
Sciences
S-104 05 Stockholm
SWEDEN

Dear Professor Bernhard:

Thank you very much for the honor of the invitation to participate in the Nobel Symposium on "Ethics for Science Policy" to be held in Stockholm, August 20-25, 1978. It would indeed be a privilege to join in the distinguished program you are planning. Therefore I am very sorry to write and say that I am unable to accept the invitation. There are two primary reasons for this, and they are related. During the past several years I have spent a great deal of time with the recombinant DNA problem in the United States. When I started these activities in 1973 I did not imagine, nor did I intend, that they would become so demanding of my time. In fact my own research has suffered a great deal and more importantly, the young post-doctoral fellows in my laboratory have missed the attention that they both expect and deserve. That is one reason that I am trying hard to curtail my activities in this regard. The second reason is that while I have certainly learned a great deal about the relation of scientists to the rest of society, it has all been in the limited context of the recombinant DNA debate. I have not given a great deal of thought to the more general aspects of the problem. Thus I could not make a substantial contribution to what will clearly be a most scholarly discussion of these problems.

Thank you again for the invitation and please accept my best wishes for the success of the Symposium.

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Singer, Ph.D.
Head, Nucleic Acid Enzymology Section
Laboratory of Biochemistry