



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Department of Microbiology

February 21, 1968

Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
University of Cincinnati  
Children's Hospital  
Research Foundation  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

Dear Dr. Sabin:

Ariel Hollinshead told me of her telephone conversation with you and of your request for information about Dr. Meir Kende.

My close contact with Meir was as the advisor and research director for his Ph.D. program, from 1961 to 1966. During this time he was my principal assistant in courses in virology for both medical students and graduate students. This assignment gave him experience in a wide variety of virus techniques. In his dissertation research he concentrated on micro tissue cultures and very satisfactorily adapted an earlier method for use in a neutralization test for poliovirus. I have known that he continued working with tissue cultures after he left here, and I believe he adapted the micro tissue culture neutralization test to use with other viruses. He did not have a chance to learn the sophisticated techniques of chromatography, ultracentrifugation, etc., but I assume this defect has been remedied since he left here. (Our current students do have varying degrees of exposure to these techniques.)

He came to us directly from Israel. In spite of considerable language difficulty when he first came, he performed very well in his course work and in his instruction to students. An initial shyness was also probably the result of insecurity about language and customs. He became more self-confident during his years at George Washington. I always found him very pleasant; he got along well with everyone in the department. The only instance of personality conflict that I know of was at Flow Laboratories. My impression is that he was just one of a number of victims of conflict in his section but I must admit that I don't have the whole picture. Joel Warren's statement of Meir's relationship with colleagues at Pfizer should be quite important in the total evaluation.

Dr. Sabin

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I understand from Ariel that the person you hire will have primary responsibility for the laboratory when you are away. When Meir left here he of course had not had enough experience to take such responsibility. He did have the potential for leadership, and he certainly has the intelligence and the motivation for it. Again, Joel Warren's comments should be helpful.

I have given you the candid evaluation you asked for. I am sincere in making it mostly a favorable evaluation. Meir is certainly a graduate we are proud of, and I am happy to recommend him to you. You will know, as I can't, whether or not he has the experience and specific qualifications for the position.

With warm regards,

Sincerely yours,

*Mary Louise Robbins*

Mary Louise Robbins, Ph.D.  
Professor of Microbiology

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