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Crowded at the Summit: The Future of Infectious Disease

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THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

CENTENNIAL LECTURES ON SCIENCE AND SOCIETY
RAYMOND AND BEVERLY SACKLER LECTURE

Crowded at the Summit: *The Future of Infectious Disease*

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.

President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus
Raymond and Beverly Sackler Foundation Scholar

DATE:	Friday, January 26, 2001	PLACE:	Caspary Auditorium The Rockefeller University East 66th Street and York Avenue New York City
TIME:	3:15 p.m. Tea 3:45 p.m. Lecture		

The last 20 years have seen the emergence of new infectious diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis C, and the resurgence of diseases, like tuberculosis, once considered vanquished. Scientists have discovered that the pace of microbial evolution vastly outstrips that of their multicellular hosts. As a result, most encounters are dominated by parasite adaptations, taking account of ancient innovations like our immune system. Joshua Lederberg, a Nobel laureate and president emeritus of The Rockefeller University, will discuss the danger of attempts to eradicate microbes without considering backup strategies.

Dr. Lederberg discovered a mechanism of genetic recombination in bacteria while a doctoral student at Yale University, demonstrating that a form of sexual reproduction occurs in these microorganisms. This work earned him the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1958 at the age of 33.

In 1978, Dr. Lederberg came to The Rockefeller University as its fifth president, serving until June 1990. Since retiring as president, he has returned to research as head of the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics and Informatics.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and charter member of its Institute of Medicine, Dr. Lederberg was elected a foreign member of the Royal Society of London and an honorary fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. Throughout his career, Dr. Lederberg has taken important advisory roles in government, serving as scientific counselor to world leaders and heading a number of influential committees and policy studies. In 1989 he was awarded the U.S. National Medal of Science.

For additional information, please call Ms. Gloria Phipps at (212) 327-8967.

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