November 14, 1986

Dear Viktor,

I was disturbed that you were not named as a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize for the NCF work. The neglect of your contribution in the associated newspaper and magazine accounts was also disheartening. My concern is shared by many others in the neuroscience community. Your omission may add a certain notoriety to this matter that will obligate future writers about the NCF story to note your contribution to confirm their scholarship and membership in the "in group." As an historian, you may take pride in the knowledge that Rosalyn Harrison also just missed the prize. His oversight by the Nobel Committee has hardly influenced Harrison's stature. In a few years, many people will think that you won the prize—most of the rest will simply think that you deserved it. Over the long run, the book speaks for itself.

During the Neuroscience meeting that just ended, Ron mentioned your progress on your book. Early reports sound like it will be an exciting and monumental contribution. The book should be a significant historical contribution and also a reminder to our friends in the field and increasingly molecular biology that much apparent progress was made by disposing of some of the original, difficult, and yet involved
problème associated with the social behavior of cells in the developing embryo.

In a recent letter, you mentioned that I could have a photographic portrait made of you by Mr. Coover. Could you or someone in the Biology Department arrange to send it to me? I would be happy to reimburse shipping charges.

Sincerely,
Bob Brown