



Leonid I. Nefyodov, PhD, M.D., D.h.c.

**Yanka Kupala
State University
of Grodno
Ministry of
Education
Republic of
Belarus**

**22 Ozheshko Str., Grodno,
230023, BELARUS**
Tel.: +375 (152) 78 50 68
+375 (296) 37 69 82
Fax: +375 (152) 78 72 46
+375 (17) 210 85 99
E-mail: l.nefyodov@grsu.by

**Professor and Head,
Department of
Biochemistry
Yanka Kupala State
University of Grodno,
Chairman of Belarusian
Biochemical Society**

Herrn
Dr. med. Alan Niederer
Neue Zürcher Zeitung
Falkenstr. 11
8021 Zürich
SWITZERLAND

Grodno, April 07, 2005

Dear Dr. Niederer,

Thank you very much for your answer. I was glad to hear that you are going to publish an article on the process of nomination of candidates for the Nobel Prize. In my opinion and based on my own experience the question of selection criteria of the proposed Nobel Prize candidates should be made accessible to a wider public.

However, this issue has not so far been publicly discussed. I believe that such a discussion would be important for society, for its development and with regard to respect for the nominated scientists.

The example which I have described, which is also well documented (see enclosure), could be taken as the basis for a public discussion. Because the selection process for nominated candidates is in no way transparent, mistakes can occur in the awarding of the prize – knowingly or unknowingly. Until my own experience I did not want to believe this but my confidence in the way in which the Nobel Prize is awarded has been called into question to a certain extent. If the award process were transparent, such a misapprehension could be avoided.

The idea behind the awarding of the Nobel Prize is that the scientific world should be made aware of new discoveries which should thereby benefit society. Because of the way in which the prize is currently awarded valuable discoveries unfortunately remain known to only a very small circle of scientists. It has happened that these advances have only been taken up again decades later and

thereby the process of further development could only be started at a much later date.

I believe that it is very important for society, for science and also for human progress in general to discuss all nominated candidates and their discoveries in public. This could be enormously important for the next development steps.

The practice of only making public the names of the nominated scientists 50 years later has not stood the test of time. It is certainly no drawback for these scientists to be named – on the contrary, it would have only positive effects.

For this reason I would be very grateful if you could use my ideas in the article which you are going to publish in this year. I would also appreciate if you could inform me about the date when this article will appear in your valued newspaper.

Best regards,

Prof. Leonid Nefyodov

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nefyodov', written in a cursive style.

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Wissenschaftsredaktion
Dr. med. Alan Niederer

Falkenstrasse 11
CH 8021 Zürich
E-Mail

Telefon 01 258 1496
Fax 01 252 2496
a.niederer@nzz.ch

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Professor Leonid I. Nefyodov
Department of Biochemistry Y. Kupala
State University of Grodno
22, Ozheshko St.
230023 Grodno

BELARUS (Weissrussland)

Dear Professor Nefyodov

Thank you for your letter from October 28th. Unfortunately I have to tell you that we do not normally publish open letters in our newspaper – only as advertisements.

Nevertheless, we are planning to publish next year an article on the process of nomination of candidates for the Nobel Prize. On this occasion we will also address the issue of transparency of this process.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. med. Alan Niederer

Cc: Dr. Hugo Bütler, editor-in-chief, Neue Zürcher Zeitung