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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98195

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Department of Biochemistry

Dr. Maxine F. Singer
National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20014


Dear Maxine,

I have enjoyed reading your recent comments about the question of cloning of DNA. Enclosed you will find a preprint that I thought would be of interest to you. Essentially what our group here in Seattle has found is that the prokaryotic/eukaryotic barrier as postulated by Sinsheimer does not occur in nature. We have found that a small portion of a plasmid present in Agrobacterium tumefaciens is transferred to plant tissue in the course of producing tumors in the host plant.

I probably will be interviewed over a local radio station in the next couple of weeks. I would be very grateful if you could send me any sort of general literature that you may have. Stanley Cohen's recent article in Science, I thought, was very well taken; although some of the people at the University of Washington who have opposed DNA cloning experiments have pointed out a couple of weak points in his arguments. Anything you have along these lines would be very helpful, as I feel I might be in for a hard time during the course of the program.

Thanks very much in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,



Milton P. Gordon
Professor of Biochemistry

MPG:nf
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