

June 1, 1952

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Dear Ed:

Three months from now, Wenrich expects to receive a manuscript from us on bacterial sexuality for the A.A.A.S. symposium on sex in microorganisms. The deadline is September 1, but if you are taking a vacation this summer, as we hope to, the time is somewhat shorter.

The idea is very attractive, but we won't be on the West Coast this summer. I hope this won't preclude our collaboration. We expect to take off from here for parts unknown about the first of August, so I hope to have my part in by then. Wenrich wrote a while ago asking an estimate of the length of our article. Pending further word from you, I replied about 10 - 15 pages (including illustrations). The format will be single-column, following the style of the Brucellosis volume.

It is probably not too soon to make affirmative plans about this if we are to avoid a last-minute rush. Will you be able to join in this, and do you think it worth your while?

Since we have to collaborate at long range, a definite division of labor may be necessary. May I suggest that you cover the historical (both general and personal) background of our work through to the question of linkage, and that I take it from there? I don't think they want much biographical detail, but I think it would be instructive to relate the bacterial recombination tests to the background of the Neurospora work, both for the concept of the auxo-heterotrophic mutant, and for the selective isolation of interesting genotypes. This is just a suggestion, waiting to be countered. Wenrich asked for as many illustrations as will help the argument. I think the project may be very useful, not only as a recapitulation, but also as the first considered presentation for the general biologist.

From all I hear, the Boston symposium was a great success.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. C.H. Browning wrote me a pleasant note referring to an early experiment involving a selective search for recombination in trypanosomes. (It didn't work). But it deserves to be mentioned, just so Gowen and Lincoln don't feel too badly. The latter for some strange reason seems to feel as if they were scooped or snubbed! Browning's reference: Jour. Path. Bact., 12: 166-190 (1908)!