

April 24, 1959

Dr. Milton C. Winternitz  
The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund  
333 Cedar Street  
New Haven 11, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Winternitz:

This letter is in further support of Dr. Lederberg's request for your consideration of support for his program here at Stanford, and is in response to Dr. Waters' request for detailed data on the Department of Genetics. The following material supplements Dr. Lederberg's and my letters of February 24 and 25. The portion that is repetitive is included here to round out the picture for you and your Board of Scientific Advisers.

We are hopeful that The Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund will provide support for the Department of Genetics to meet its presently unbudgeted needs for a period of five years. These needs total \$345,000 and are set forth in the descriptive budget (Enclosure 3). We believe that with support of approximately \$60,000 per year from 1959 through 1964, we can establish this extremely promising program on a firm and productive basis. We are also confident that during this five year period we can secure permanent financing for the department.

The Department of Genetics was organized earlier this year as a new unit of the Stanford University School of Medicine now being consolidated on the University campus near Palo Alto. The reasons for removal of the School from San Francisco you and your Board can appreciate perhaps more fully than most. Basically they relate to our conviction that the greatest advances in medical knowledge will be made by those schools which are integral parts of their mother universities and hence able to draw upon the full resources of the other university disciplines. The new educational program is designed to stimulate the academic and research interests of the medical students and much effort will be directed toward research activities and the advanced training of candidates for the Ph.D. and of post-doctoral fellows. It is our aim to add personnel to an urgent national need for an increased number of teachers and investigators.

The genetics program at Stanford will center in the new department headed by Professor Lederberg. The discipline has had a long and not undistinguished tradition at Stanford in the Medical School (e.g. Professor Danforth in Anatomy) and elsewhere (e.g. the now classic studies of Beadle and Tatum in Biology). Activity in several departments will continue and expand. In his letter of February 24, Dr. Lederberg set forth the rationale of his approach to the subject; the memorandum on The Genetics Program at Stanford University (Enclosure 1) describes the program in some detail and relates it to others at Stanford whose work parallels and contributes to our strength in this area. Curricula vitae on Drs. Nossal and Herzenberg are in Enclosure 2.

The projected membership of the Genetics faculty includes:

Professor J. Lederberg (Executive)	Bacterial genetics
Professor X )	Transplantation genetics
Instructor Y )	Human genetics
Assistant Professor L. Herzenberg	Tissue Cultures

Two or three research associates (for example Dr. E. M. Lederberg and Dr. G. J. V. Nossal) will assist materially. In addition an appointment in clinical genetics is contemplated, probably in conjunction with the Department of Pediatrics.

The research program would not be easily separable from research-training. When fully staffed, the Department should have altogether from four to six graduate students and postdoctoral fellows attached directly to each of its members, or a total of 20 to 25 'trainees'. Special emphasis will be given to attracting candidates with a medical background (viz. as medical students or medical graduates) into the program; therefore an additional few part-time appointments for medical students should be available for this purpose. Somewhat over half of the trainee group will be Ph.D. candidates or postdoctoral fellows.

With the cooperation of other departments, the Genetics Department will offer a sequence of graduate courses in the specialties of its staff, and will offer a Ph.D. in Genetics based on accomplishment in general biological education, in genetic studies and especially on advanced research in this field. The small size of the department provides the opportunity, and the diversity of initial interests of its trainees the necessity, to create a flexible regimen of preliminary requirements for the degree, so that we can accommodate candidates not only from general biology, but also from the physical sciences and from medicine.

The projected 1959-60 operating budget for the Department now totals about \$200,000. Of this, the University is providing \$38,000 for tenure appointments and general expenses. The balance will come from three research grants totalling \$76,000 and a training grant which provides about \$84,000 in its first year. These grants will support an adequate number of research associates, technicians and the like for existing staff and will provide for junior investigators on term appointments. They do not however, provide the funds necessary for increments and promotions to tenured positions.

The purpose of the present request is to support the initial growth of the Genetics Department while the Medical School is consolidating its position on the University campus. Flexible funds for equipment and "risk capital" are especially important. The existing staff will need to call on these funds to set up and expand their work as laboratory space is completed. Even more important, they are needed to assure continuity for the new staff in the interval before their individual requests for project support can be formulated, justified, reviewed and paid.

The space presently available to the Genetics Department is being financed by the University (through gifts) at a budgeted cost of \$175,000. The new space, mentioned in Enclosure 3, will be similarly financed. Our goal is to complete construction of this additional research space within the next three years.

We are requesting these funds in order to establish the Department on a secure basis for research and training in genetics. This is, in essence, a request for support of a program rather than specific projects. It is one which we consider extremely promising and which we are hopeful the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund will wish to support.

Yours sincerely,

Robert H. Alway, M.D.  
Dean