Pappenheimer ✓

DEPARTMENT OF CELLULAR AND
DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

The Biological Laboratories
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

J. Woodland Hastings
(617) 495-3714

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Dear Josh: Thank you for sending me your excellent memoir of Ed Tatum (he and I were on the first NSF biochemistry panel that awarded research grants) and your reminiscences of the discovery of genetic recombination in bacteria (I was at that memorable 1946 meeting in Cold Spring Harbor).

I enjoyed reading both reprints.

You ask me about who first developed the concept that cancer might have resulted from loss of synthetic competence. I don't know if I can give you a correct answer. Howard Mueller, in his 1943 Harvey lecture mentions Twort and Ingram's work on phthicol (vitamin K) and the Johne's bacillus (1912) but also credits B.C.J.G. Knight (MRC., 1936), as does André Dwoff, with giving the first clear expression of the concept. However, Knight who was a close friend of mine, and who was with Sir Paul Felder at the time, knew very little about genetics. He and Felder used to speak of "training" bacteria - (Felder was a friend of Hinshelwood!)

I enclose a xerox of the first few pages of Mueller's 1943 Harvey lecture and also my own preliminary remarks when I gave a Mueller memorial

lecture in 1972. I don't have a copy of Mueller's 1922 papers I & II (J Bact 7 309-324, 325-338). They make interesting reading - especially the introduction to paper # I.

I must say that what we were all working on before WW II seems very elementary in these days of molecular biology!

Sincerely

Jap