

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY-BELLEVUE MEDICAL CENTER
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

550 FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

April 8, 1957

OREGON 9-3200

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin:

Dear Joshua:

Liz and I thank you for the heather, which you no doubt carried along from Pontecorvo's. You really shouldn't have gone to such trouble! Seriously, we're awfully sorry we didn't overlap with your stay in New York. I hope you found it comfortable here.

On my way back I stopped at Boston and had a talk with Dean Berry at the Medical School. I told him about your negotiations with the Biology Department, and he assured me that the Medical School would be glad to place at your disposal all possible facilities for any studies you might care to undertake involving medical material. I would personally hope, too, that we ~~will~~^{would} be able to get you to do some regular lecturing on a small scale to the medical students. In any case, I know that you've been developing increasing interest in ~~the~~ problem of genetics in the Medical School at Wisconsin, and I would like to emphasize the advantages of Harvard for such work. It is still in my opinion the best medical school in the country and attracts the best bunch of students. In the past the relations between the Biology Department and the Medical School have not been as close as they might, but with the current trends in research, and with new hybrids such as myself coming into the Medical School, I expect the relations will become a lot closer. I don't know how well you know Harvard Medical School, but I'd be glad to help you get better acquainted with the place when you come East again, and I would certainly hope that before making any decision about the Harvard job, you would consider the Medical School an important part of the world you would be moving into.

I mentioned to you a while ago that you are my leading candidate for a vacant chair at the Medical School - the Fabyan Professorship which Dubos vacated ten years ago. I don't think it would be appropriate for the Medical School to compete directly with the Biology Department at this time nor could it probably move fast enough to add a formal offer to the ones you are now considering. Furthermore, with your interests as a biologist, it would probably be more appropriate for you to be located in the Biology Department with a strong connection with the Medical School rather than vice versa. However, if for some reason things don't work out at the Biology Department and you have an interest in the possibility of coming to the Medical School, I hope very much that you will let me know at once.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

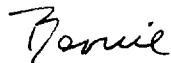
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As I've already thrown in my lot with Harvard, I can no longer pretend to be disinterested. However, I think that if you, Henry Kaplan, and I should all be at Harvard it would be a more exciting place for each of us than it might have seemed to any one of us alone.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bernie".

Bernard D. Davis