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DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

Henry S. Kaplan, M.D.
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Mitchel Weisbluth, Ph.D.
Robert Loevinger, Ph.D.

SAN FRANCISCO 15, CALIFORNIA

19 September 1958

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I trust that you and Esther had an uneventful trip home and that you are now settled back in your laboratory once again. Lee and I tremendously enjoyed your visit, and I only wish that we could have had more time together, but we'll just have to be patient until next summer. I wanted to drop you a note now for two reasons, the first being that I will not be making that project site visit in Madison and will therefore not be able to come by for a visit with you as I had hoped to do.

The other item is to solicit your best advice on behalf of one of our faculty whom you have not yet met, Dr. Ruth ('Toby') Gross, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Acting Head of the Department of Pediatrics since Bob Alway assumed the Acting and now the permanent Deanship. Toby has long been one of the most effective teachers we have in the clinical departments. She became interested in research on the evolution of biochemical pathways in newborn infants about three years ago, at which time she began to discuss some of these problems with Kalckar and Horecker, in particular. For the past two years she has done a beautiful job of research on carbohydrate pathways in the red cells of newborn children, and has shown some quite interesting phenomena, some of which are summarized in a recent article in the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

At the moment she has two problems. The first is that she is due for a sabbatical leave next year, and feels that she must get away for a year to free herself of the administrative pressure she has been facing in addition to her research, and to get a fresh point of view on her research. The second problem, which clearly relates to the first, is that she finds herself more and more attracted to the new field of ~~the~~ biochemical genetics ~~of~~ pediatrics. She has met Bart Childs and indeed some of her recent work closely parallels his but leads her to a different conclusion than he reached with regard to the

genetic patterns underlying glutathione metabolism. With just a bit of encouragement, I think that she would move over quite seriously into genetics, particularly since she is quite excited about the fact that both you and Arthur Kornberg are now coming to Stanford. If she were in fact to do so, then it would seem best for her to spend her sabbatical year learning genetics in as productive a way as possible with reference to her future research. At the same time she would like to retain some contact with the kind of biochemistry she has been doing. Finally, in terms of a choice of location, she is anxious to go to Europe, having just returned from the meetings in Vienna and Rome, and would prefer Italy, particularly Rome, as a place to spend the year, though I believe Paris would be an almost equally good second choice. She has a young son, Gary, who is now nearly ten, and she feels also that it would be highly desirable for him to learn a foreign language, which he could do most easily by living abroad. When I discussed the situation with her, Cavalli's name came to mind, and I told her of your rather warm feelings about Cavalli, but I really knew next to nothing about Padua as a place for a divorcee with a child to come for a year. I also wondered whether there was anybody in Rome with whom she might profitably work. In any case I know that she would be tremendously grateful for your advice both with regard to the potentialities of the field in general and more explicitly with regard to people and places where she might work next year if she were to elect to work in the field of genetics.

With many thanks for any help you can give her and best personal regards to you and Esther.

Sincerely,


Henry S. Kaplan, M.D.