

April 22, 1958

Dr. Hideo Kikkawa
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33 Joancho, Kitaku, Osaka
Japan

Dear Dr. Kikkawa:

Please forgive me for not having written sooner to acknowledge the safe arrival of Hirota-san and your message which accompanied him. He is now well settled in the laboratory. Even before he could communicate easily in English, which is improving, he was most eager to embark on his experimental program, which he has been doing very successfully almost since the day of his arrival. He is now working on a more detailed kinetic analysis of the removal of F by acridine orange in order to secure more decisive evidence that it is an induction, not a selection of spontaneous mutants. The latter is still a possibility but a rather remote one. In any event this has been a most remarkable and useful discovery. As Hfr mutants are not rendered self-incompatible by the dye, except through the intermediation of some Hfr \rightarrow F⁺ reversions in some strains, this work adds to the evidence for the cytoplasmic nature of F, the same factor finding a chromosomal locus in the case of the various Hfr mutants.

As I already indicated Hirota is making a rapid and happy adjustment to conditions here. As you would have predicted everyone is very fond of him and I am more than delighted to have him as a student in my laboratory. Please accept my gratitude for your good offices in arranging this.

Tetsuo Iino-haksh has just completed his graduate studies and is en route back to Misima via London (for a few months with Dr. Stocker) and the Stockholm Microbiology Congress. He is another research geneticist of whom Japan may be justly proud.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew