

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Madison 6

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY

January 28, 1958

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

Dear Professor Lederberg:

In answer to the notation "Quo vadis now?" in your recent observations on cosmic microbiology, I do have an idea where you might "vadis".

First, I think your plan of publishing this in the Bacteriological News and in Science is extremely desirable.

Secondly, nothing would be accomplished by this unless a mechanism is set up to funnel the information and ideas that individuals interested in this problem have to the proper authorities. You may know that a biologist has been appointed now to the committee administering (or at least advising the President) on the satellite program. Apparently the dog in the moon made the physicists realize that they might need some help from the biologists. The most effective way of accomplishing this aim would be for the Society to appoint an ad hoc Committee on Cosmic Microbiology to collaborate with similar groups from other societies, probably through the A.I.B.S. Ideas that might be translated into action could then be transmitted to the biological representative on the Satellite Committee. You may laugh at this, but such a committee was appointed by myself in connection with the I.G.Y. with the result that we are one of the few societies that are represented in the investigation of biological problems in the Antarctica. I hope you or Dean Cowie would be willing to serve on such a committee and one of you act as Chairman. To be most effective the committee should be small. If you are willing to do so, I shall suggest this to Dr. Eagle.

I found your paper very stimulating.

Kindest personal regards,

  
P. W. Wilson

PW:mn

This is half illiterate  
but I think you will  
get the idea

Wilson, P.W.

Now there is  
a sentence  
on 12A

i.e. to  
funnel the  
information  
etc.