

August 12, 1952

Mrs. Mildred P. Holbrook
Adminstr. Secy., Bd. Sci. Adv.
Jane Coffin Childs Fund
New Haven 11, Conn.

Dear Mrs. Holbrook:

I am always glad to have an opportunity to restate my appreciations to the Jane Coffin Childs Fund for its help to me at the outset of my scientific career.

My research program is much along previously established lines, focussed primarily on the genetics of bacteria. We are becoming more and more interested in the properties of symbiotic viruses in lysogenic strains of bacteria, and are studying them from a genetic viewpoint. Many such viruses seem to have the remarkable property of transferring genetic factors from the host cells on which they are grown to new hosts which they may subsequently infect.

I have a fairly active group of associates working with me in the laboratory, including (for the coming year) four post-doctorates (Mrs. Lederberg included) and two graduate students and some assistants. Another student, Dr. Zinder, has graduated and taken a position at the Rockefeller Institution. The laboratory is supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Rockefeller Foundation, and by research contracts with the Chemical Corps and Atomic Energy Commission, as well as intramural support. One of the fellows who is coming this fall is subsidized by the World Health Organization.

As matters during the tenure of my Childs Fund Fellowship, my activity has been related to cancer research only on a very theoretical basis, although I would be the last to minimize the necessity of such approaches. I was invited to give a paper at the last National Cancer Congress at Cincinnati, and did so on this basis.

I enclose some reprints in lieu of a literature list. The paper marked 1) is a review covering work over the last six years, and carries an acknowledgment to the Fund for its early support.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics

25, 27