

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
EDMONTON 7, CANADA

March 21, 1969.

Dr. J. Lederberg,
Head,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University School of Medicine,
STANFORD, California 94304,
U. S. A.

Dear Josh:

As you know, I have been here for the last three years, and believe that I have managed to create the kind of atmosphere which this Department required in order to be a part of the modern teaching and training program in Cellular Biology at this University. However, because of the severity of the climate coupled with the need which Mary has to get regular exercise because of her lower back problem - a problem which we have been coping with since my days in graduate school in Illinois - it appears that she is running into more difficulties than I can allow her to continue to be exposed to. The consequence has been that she has been ill with various viral infections more than half the time during the last year and I must take her out of here before she loses any more ground. The best place to take her, which would be easiest to re-settle in as far as the family is concerned altogether, would be to the coast, and I am consequently looking for a professional opening in Vancouver or Victoria. It so happens that there was a vacancy for a Professor in Biology at the University of Victoria and I spoke to the Head of the Department over the telephone last week. He advised me that they were down to a short list of candidates and if I wanted to be considered I would have to move quickly. I therefore took the liberty of including your name amongst those of referees who could be consulted regarding my past experience and performance. They may, of course, not consider my application so far as that point and you therefore may never hear from them. I merely wish to explain to you the circumstances in which I would ask for a letter at such short notice.

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Dr. J. Lederberg

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Apart from the problem which has forced me to move from here, the rest of my activities have been very satisfying and therefore the current situation is doubly frustrating since I have only begun to reap the benefits of a lot of hard work put in to create a strength in Microbiology on this campus. However, I do believe that my decision is necessary and final and hope to be able to inform you in the future that it has worked out satisfactorily professionally as well as personally.

Yours very truly,

Bill

W. E. Razzell, Ph.D.,
Professor and Chairman,
Department of Microbiology.

WER/sgs