

March 3, 1955

Dr. Alan Garen  
Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Alan:

Thank you for your letter of the 29th. In one sense I was very pleased to see this, for the important reservation that I had had about your fellowship was just the point you brought up. If you were to come here, I would like to count on a tenure of at least two years so that you could finish whatever work was started. On the other hand that would have stretched out your fellowship existence to 4-5 years, and that does seem grotesque.

The other side of the coin was that I was beginning to anticipate some of the interesting things we might have been able to plan together. With the completion of the new Bacteriology Building here, we would have had access to various biophysical facilities, should the need for them arise.

All in all, however, I think you have made the wisest choice, and I wish you the best of luck on it. Should the situation change again, let me know.

Your experiment sounds most ingenious— especially using phage to scavenge the DNA. It might even work! We shall probably still try to work up the approach via single cell isolation and autoradiography, though this sounds relatively unpromising, and there are a number of general technical problems that have to be settled for this and some related experiments.

With best wishes,

  
Joshua Lederberg