

McClure, W.O.



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

December 7, 1979

JOSHUA LEDERBERG

PRESIDENT

Dr. W. O. McClure
Director
Section of Cellular Biology
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California 90007

Dear Dr. McClure:

This is in connection with Dr. Ronald Harris-Warrick's application for a faculty position in neurosciences.

To my great satisfaction, Dr. Harris-Warrick was my research assistant and graduate student in the Department of Genetics at Stanford University between 1970 and 1975. I had known of him prior to that time, as an undergraduate in the Department of Biological Sciences where he had done outstanding work with Professor Charles Yunofsky. In my own laboratory he made an important discovery, namely that endonuclease restriction segments of *Bacillus subtilis* could be separated by agarose gel chromatography; that different segments had distinctive genetic activity in the transformation system; and that this analytical methodology could be used to explore the strain specificity of transformation in *Bacillus subtilis*, *B. globigii*, and other strains. He was an important member of the group, working with Drs. Sgaramella and Ehrlich, in the development of recombinant-DNA methodology for *Bacillus subtilis*.

Dr. Harris-Warrick showed himself to be an observant, methodical and imaginative investigator and I had no doubt that he would make important contributions in the general field of molecular biology.

Fairly early in the progress of his work he developed a broader interest in neurobiological mechanisms. By happy mutual agreement he planned, on the completion of his dissertation work in my laboratory, to work with Dr. Eric M. Shooter - originally also in the Genetics Department but soon to bud off the separate department of neurobiology. I assume that Dr. Shooter will be able to give you a good account of his work

Dr. W. O. McClure
December 7, 1979

- 2 -

with him, and can also comment better than I on his subsequent performance in research studies in that general field.

Besides his unmistakable investigative accomplishment Dr. Harris is a human being of extraordinary sensitivity and consideration. He is clear and forthright in his discussion and will be a superb teacher. I would recommend him without reservation for a faculty position, and would be glad to find him again a colleague on any faculty of which I was myself a member.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg