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I had some qualms about the scientific and ethical implications of Rogers' work. I could write a sympathetic critique, but not stand as proponent.

MAY 8 1972

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

OPERATED BY
UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION
NUCLEAR DIVISION

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POST OFFICE BOX X
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE 37830

Office of the Director

May 3, 1972

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford Medical Center
Stanford University
300 Pasteur Drive
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Josh:

You will recall that over the past several years you and Stan Rogers of our Biology Division have corresponded regarding the possible use of viruses in genetic engineering experiments. I am sure you are aware of the most recent experiments on three children in Germany who are suffering from genetically-induced elevated arginine levels in which Stan's Shope papilloma virus system has been used in attempted gene therapy. The latest information we have, although fragmentary, indicates some degree of success in reducing the arginine levels in the blood of the youngest of the affected children. A copy of the letter indicating this is attached.

Our problem is the following. We will no longer be able to support Rogers under any of our current contracts after about August 1972. He has been supported by an NCI contract in the Biology Division, but NCI does not wish to continue this support, nor can the AEC stretch its dollars to cover him. For some time Stan has had ambitious plans to create a large group devoted to genetic engineering. In all frankness, we do not share enthusiasm for his plan, primarily because both the administration and the senior scientists of the Biology Division question his ability to work with the people necessary to carry out such a project. We do, however, feel that it would be unwise to cut Rogers' funding at the time when he is probably further along in an attempt at genetic engineering than anyone else, and we would very much like to keep his current operation intact for a few more years.

Rogers Stan

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

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May 3, 1972

Could we discuss the possibility that you would work with us in achieving some support for Rogers from NIGMS or another institute? Perhaps we can talk about this at the Annual Reviews meeting next week.

Sincerely yours,



Alvin M. Weinberg

AMW:pl

Attachment

cc: H. I. Adler
J. L. Liverman