

Sgaramella

+ (~~Apr 29-30~~) -
~~March 27~~

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Rockefeller University New York, N. Y.

Feb 4th, 1991

Dear Josh,
as you know I have been in Miami for a week for a COGENE meeting and the Winter Symposium, but I have not contacted you for a variety of reasons: a few weeks ago Arturo told me that you were going to India, but then the day before I left (Jan. 25) I met him in Rome and he told me that you were not going, only that in the meanwhile I had made my trip schedule and bought my reduced rate ticket for a direct flight Milano-Miami and return. In Miami, Norton told me that you were indeed in the States, not in N.Y. but busy and unapproachable in Washington. So I did not even try to contact you. Well, I am back in Pavia and I have just found your letter of Jan. 18 alluding to a face which I never received: it refers to your intention to go to India from Jan. 28 to Feb. 9, which I understand is no longer valid, but it mentions also an apartment on campus. And this is relevant and wonderful! So my plans are as follows: I shall be in N. Y. next August with Valeria (my younger daughter) and Paola (my companion) as tourists. In September they will return to Italy, and I would start my sabbatical with you: your generous offer and the appeal of doing some writing and some science with you make up an irresistible cocktail. So you can consider me in N. Y. since the beginning of next September. In April I will come to Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. for a Fidia Research Foundation Symposium "Ethical Issues in Research" (the topic I have been assigned is fraud, false and data misappropriation in science: have you any suggestions on the subject in term of papers, books etc?). On that occasion I am available to come and see you in N. Y. immediately either before or after April 29-30: please let me know about your availability. I would treasure that opportunity to discuss with you research programs (cairnism? HAC -i.e. human artificial chromosomes-?...?) and any other detail. In May I will not be able to see you in Pavia since I am in Crete for a EEC workshop on the Human Genome Project, for which G. Bernardi from Paris and myself are proposing a fantastic program: the cloning in YAC or in E. coli F-based plasmids of the "GC rich isochores", namely those sequences amounting to a few percent of the human genome, produced by mild shearing and containing the great majority of the genes: since this will be obtained via the homopolymeric tailing procedure (an abstract will reach you soon) there should be no co-cloning nor any bias due to sequence-based cutting. It's the substantiation of cDNA cloning with genomic fragments! It is simply a fantastic idea: your comments and suggestions will make it even better. I am eager to hear from you, after you receive more details.

Most sincerely yours,

Vittorio Sgaramella