

Van Nieu

July 15, 1958

Dear Kees:

I have been looking forward to writing this letter, to be able to tell you for myself that all the obstacles seem to have been overcome and we can hope for a formal announcement from the medical school perhaps by the time you receive this letter. This is in a way a reply to your last long letter of a year ago. Barring some ridiculous calamity, all the issues have been stated and clarified, and there are only a few remaining formalities, essentially to sign a contract already enthusiastically agreed upon.

The discouragements and setbacks last year could hardly have been better designed, in retrospect, to ultimately bring about an arrangement that could hardly be more satisfactory, especially from the standpoint of a close association with Arthur and his group, and also for the mission of deserved emphasis on science in general and genetics in particular in training for medicine and for medical research. In other words, this looks very good and we could hardly be more delighted at the prospective outcome.

So I will repeat my speech of last year, no less sincerely if more substantially, how pleased and grateful I have been for your longstanding interest, and now how much Esther and I look forward to the opportunity of seeing you more often. I know that my students (who will be yours) will feel the same way about it.

Our detailed moving plans are indefinite; July is the most likely date for our actual move, but it may come sooner. We're flying off to Paris and Stockholm next week (any remote possibility of your attending the microbiology congress? though I shouldn't imagine an affair like that would be any more to your taste than it is to mine) and will be back at Palo Alto about Sept. 5-10, actually before we get home to Madison again.

With a toast to more and better microbiophily,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg