

January 21, 1956

Dear Kim:

I was starting to write a chapter on genetic aspects of chemical disinfection when I was reminded that we know practically nothing about it. I did some work myself along these lines a few years ago; it was just an examination of the survivors of treated diploid cells, but it was apparent that agents like formaldehyde had drastic nuclear effects, while substances like iodine did not. For the purpose of the chapter, I hope to quote your work on radiation damage as a model of how a complete analysis can be made, but meanwhile I wanted to ask you whether you had contemplated doing at least a brief survey of chemical disinfectants to see which of them have a ~~plasmid~~ ^{nuclear} locus of action. One can, of course, predict what substances like nitrogen mustard will do. Do you have any information along these lines already.

I also want to ask you whether you have any further thoughts about opportunities at Wisconsin. I talked with Bowers a few weeks ago, and he has appeared to be quite sold on the idea of a medical genetics program along the lines of the proposals we have discussed. He told me then he would be getting in touch with you right away-- I hope you are going to be interested, and in either event that you will follow up. I don't have the machine handy at the instant, but if it appeals to you I'll be happy to hear you on a Voicewriter ~~tape~~.disc.

Best regards,


Joshua Lederberg