

January 19, 1965

Dr. Alan Garen  
Department of Molecular Biology and Biophysics  
The Josiah Willard Gibbs Research Laboratories  
Yale University  
Box 2166 Yale Station  
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Alan:

If I have any difficulty in responding to your letter about Norton Zinder it is that of having to restate the obvious, and especially since you have been so closely associated with him yourself and could speak for his outstanding qualifications first hand.

His work as a graduate student on Salmonella transduction is of course very well known and has laid the basis for a large part of the further exploration of bacterial genetics. Since then, in addition to exploring this line, and his imaginative work (with you) on radiobiology of phage, he has opened more new doors with the discovery of the male-specific RNA phages and their exploitation to answer some of the most fundamental and most difficult questions of molecular biology. Dr. Zinder has a special knack for turning up the unexpected, thereby pioneering new fields rather than following the bandwagon.

I am especially proud to be able to recommend him to my own alma mater, and do so without hesitation. I hope he does move, for the general benefit of his functioning in a true university.

Good luck,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

Zinder