

YALE UNIVERSITY  
OSBORN BOTANICAL LABORATORY  
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

April 1, 1950

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I am sorry to have been so slow in outlining our tentative paper. However my procrastination has been on purpose.

Stadler is here this semester giving a course in genetics. This course, and my own pleasant contacts with him have had, as you might reasonably expect, a very profound, and I feel very healthy and beneficial effect on my view of the problem of gene action and the l-1. This semester in many respects is one of the most enjoyable I have spent at Yale.

Stadler feels our project is particularly worthwhile, and hopes we will do it while he is still here. I hope so too, and will try to do so. However, interferences arise and I can only say I will try.

Under Stadler's influence we have recently been looking into the question of the complexity of Neurospora genes and indeed find them as complex as anything else. We have played primarily with "alleles", the niacinless strains which accumulate quinolinic acid (see Bonner and Yanofsky, Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci., Oct. 1949). We have three independent occurrences of this mutant. They do not form heterocaryons, but two out of three possible crosses give wild types in wholesale isolations, with a different frequency for these two. This work is still in its infancy, but is keeping us busy, and will have a bearing on the l-1, if true. I thought you might be interested.

Thanks for your reminder and I will get busy on this paper this coming month.

Best regards,

Sincerely,



David M. Bonner  
Associate Professor of Microbiology