

November 25, 1953

Dr. David M. Bonner
Department of Microbiology
Yale University
New Haven 11, Connecticut

Dear Dave:

Your note of the 18th asked about Stanley Shapiro. I knew Stan only slightly while he was here at Wisconsin. Just after he got his Ph.D. in the Bacteriology Department he spent a couple of weeks in our laboratory picking up techniques for the isolation of biochemical mutants. This was just before he went to take a job at Ames where he is now. He has apparently made some use of the methods picked up with us judging from a few of his publications. Stan did not impress me as quite the most brilliant of present-day scientists though considering the very poor environment at his present post he seems to have produced pretty well. He is a very amiable sort of chap, works pretty hard, and I think that unless you would put him on a program that demanded quite unusual capabilities that you could get a good deal of work out of him. It is not altogether out of the question that he would develop considerably further under the proper influences, but above all I think someone has to take the very necessary humanitarian step of rescuing him from his present, almost intolerable situation. All in all, I think that I would recommend him to you and certainly for a trial interval of a year or so as you mentioned.

I am glad to hear that you are settled in a more congenial and secure atmosphere at Brady than you had before. You know that you have our best wishes in this as in all other matters.

Dave, some time ago I asked you to bring me up-to-date on the reprints that you and your associates had received. Could you please tend to this soon and let me know how many copies it would be important for you and the people in more or less immediate contact with you to have. If you could give me their names I will see to it that as many copies as can be spared will be sent. I would like to ask you to act as the distributing agent on this matter. In turn, among myself and my students and collaborators, we could use anywhere from two to six copies of various papers, depending on the immediacy of their genetic pertinence.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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