

May 16, 1957

Professor James Jenkins
Department of Genetics
University of California
Berkeley 4, California

Dear Jim:

Thank you for yours of the 14th.

While I am naturally disappointed at the indirect approach that now seems obligatory, it seems to us that your letter states a very satisfactory foundation for agreement. [It is of course understood that, for simplicity and coordination, I have been Esther's spokesman in this correspondence. We may be rapidly approaching the time when she should be consulting directly with you on details. Fortunately, our trip through San Francisco, now scheduled for August 3-6, will be a most timely occasion for this. I am enclosing an itinerary for your information.]

Esther is quite gratified at the proposal you will be recommending. If adjustments have to be made for budgetary reasons, she prefers that they prorated on the highest rank for which she would qualify, as you suggested. She has been working quite full-time. She will want to learn from you firsthand the answers to questions of privileges, such as attendance at meetings, etc. which might have some bearing on the full-time status of non-faculty professional personnel.

My own principal concern, as her 'attorney' is that the Administration clearly approve this expedient as a means of our continued collaboration, and that her tenure be governed by section 12.1 of the President's rules for the classification. This implies that the specific question of her relationship to me shall not, in future, be invoked as a disqualification for her appointment, so long as this can be administered in another department as now proposed. Everything you have written me supports this understanding, but it might be well if this were incorporated ultimately in a formal letter.

Esther's application form is enclosed. But the space for the question on University-employed relatives is left blank. As of this instant, the answer is no, since Seymour's employment begins this summer. You will know best how to make that entry.

I am beginning to become a bit uneasy about the timing. It would be acutely embarrassing to me if I have to make, and therefore announce, a formal commitment to leave Wisconsin more than about six months before I could actually move. Since it seems fairly plain that the reconstruction could not be com-

pleted before about mid-October 1958, I had been using that as a point of reference. Six months before that would be mid-April, as the most apt time to make a formal commitment. If it were at all possible, I would be happy to defer that juncture until after the Symposium on Medical Genetics to be held here April 8-10.

Furthermore, do you believe I should make a formal reply to any offer before the plans have reached a stage that would give a concrete picture of whether a suitable laboratory could be financed?

Does this schedule strike you as a reasonable one? I realize that you have your own complementary pressures. All in all it would have been far simpler if we could have arranged an immediate move. Since that was out of our hands (on both sides) there is bound to be some delicacy in the program.

We will have a good chance to go over all this in detail this summer. Have you any idea when the proposed appointment will have cleared the faculty committees? Will there be an occasion by August to go over plans in more detail, or will this have to wait for a later stage? I don't mean to barrage you with questions; it will be enough if you keep me informed as affairs develop. Of course, I will also be very happy to hear how the Genetics teaching program works out. Finally it begins to look as if Genetics will be nearly the only basic science in the College of Agriculture at Berkeley. Are you satisfied in your own mind about the implications of this for the future status of the Department? I don't anticipate a reply worthy of the question by mail, and we did go over this before. But I hadn't realized before that Agr. Biochemistry would be redistributed. There will be time enough to learn more about these matters when we see you next. I am also aware of the possibility that an 'expensive' appointment like my own might help in its own way to fix policy, or at least depends on the fixation of it.

When I saw you last, we had some talk about indican. What I am hoping for is a possible source of indoxyl-B-glucoside, which is the onetime indican of commerce (extracted from Indigofera). Have you any current leads on that?

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg

P.S. I'm sure that anyone who reviewed this correspondence might conclude that neither of us had anything else to do but patch up the details that go with these arrangements. I don't expect that this is any truer of you than myself, and we must both be looking forward to the day when our discussions will be about genetics rather than Genetics. Until then, I am very grateful to you for the very great trouble to which you are going in managing all of this. I know your formal reply would be, 'Well, that's my job', but that doesn't alter the fact.