

January 31, 1957

Dear Avram:

Thank you for your kind note. If only for your interest, I am happy to note your renewed optimism. I had seen a brief notice of Dean Cutting's resignation in the N.Y. Times, and got nowhere trying to fathom what it meant.

It is true that I am entertaining an alternative offer from Berkeley, in the Genetics Department. No doors are closed: if I can have the time without embarrassing the other parties, I hope to keep them open until about March 1. We will be busy travelling after that, and hope that these matters can be settled.

It's too bad that the Stanford question should come up when the medical school business is so fluid. But I am encouraged at what you wrote.

I should tell you about another alternative, here at Wisconsin, which has not yet crystallized. We are discussing the establishment of a separate Department of Medical Genetics, with strong ties to this one, of course. The principal mission of the department would be fundamental research (on men, mice and microorganisms) in genetics of allied medical interest; on this base we would also have our teaching responsibilities too. I realize that it would be too much to expect Stanford to underwrite such a program (which would mean one or two additional appointments at assistant-associate professorship) at this critical stage in the medical school development. I have to weigh the possibilities of such or comparable developments in the future as ~~xxxxxx~~ against the other virtues of Stanford (and of Berkeley, for that matter).

So we have a trivium ahead, and it's not easy to think about the choice.

Let me add one point-- if we do go to Berkeley, (a priori probability = 1/3) we will want to make a point of tightening up cordial relationships with Stanford. The Stanford case speaks for itself. So there is a 2/3 likelihood that we will be in closer touch.

We will have little more we can say before actually deciding, and will let you know. If you can relay more about developments at your end, I'd be grateful.

Yours,

Joshua Lederberg