

December 23, 1950.

Dr. Warren Weaver,  
Director, Natural Sciences,  
Rockefeller Foundation,  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Weaver:

You will recall that our program of research on the genetics of bacteria is operated with the very welcome assistance of a three-year grant-in-aid, to the amount of \$7500, from the Rockefeller Foundation. This grant is due to expire May 1, 1951. The purpose of my letter is to open a question relative to this expiration date.

Since the time at which this grant-in-aid was initiated, we have been fortunate in obtaining considerable financial assistance in support of specific projects undertaken in our laboratory, so that it has not been necessary to exhaust the grant-in-aid from the Rockefeller Foundation. To date, I believe that somewhat more than half the funds allotted under this grant have been spent. The sources of the additional support just mentioned are principally the National Institutes of Health (Project: Genetics of Salmonella), Army Chemical Corps (Project: Latent bacterial viruses), and the University Research Committee, WARF funds, (assistantship stipends).

The letter in which I made formal application for the Rockefeller Foundation's grant-in-aid specified a budget which divided the allocation into expendable supplies and special equipment. That letter was written when I had had no practical experience in administering a laboratory; I have since found it rather difficult to interpret the phrase "special equipment", as distinguished from the variety of durable equipment and apparatus items essential to the operation of a laboratory. With three years of such experience now behind, I should like to open the question of revising the terms of the grant-in-aid so that the most expeditious use can be made of these funds in the light of our particular needs, experience, and other support.

The two proposals which I should like to ask you to consider are:

- 1: An extension of the term of the grant to March 1, 1952.
- 2: Modification of the budget statement to allow remaining funds to be used to purchase laboratory apparatus, equipment, glassware and supplies. Just as in the original proposal, the funds will not be available for salaries, travel, construction or other unspecified uses.

The extension of term is requested in order to allow us to take advantage of the better terms of the budget, but primarily because the later date will mark a more suitable milestone in the physical development of our research facilities. Shifts made possible by new construction are expected to leave the Genetics Department in full occupancy of our present building (now shared), by late 1951 or early 1952. For that occasion, it will be necessary to review our finances. Until new arrangements covering our expanded scope (about twice as much space will be available for bacterial genetics research) can be concluded, I have hoped we could carry on with the still uncommitted funds from the Rockefeller Foundation's grant. From my point of view, it is too soon to discuss our 1952 needs, but some eight or ten months hence I hope to be able to begin to do so. In the meantime, the security of the continuing grant will be very gratifying. If your accounting procedures require, however, the term of extension could well be varied by two months or so.

Since this account is undoubtedly sketchy, please do not regard this letter as a formal petition to put the indicated proposals into effect. However, I would greatly appreciate a word from you as to the potential feasibility of these suggestions, or alternatively, of alternative courses of action. I will, of course, hasten to send any additional information that may be required, as well as to cast this application in a more formal mold. I have discussed this matter briefly with Professor Brink, Department Chairman, with his assent.

Since no fundamental changes are involved, I have not yet consulted our deans or president, but will be pleased to send the matter through channels if indicated.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Associate Professor of Genetics