

April 24, 1957

Dr. Robert S. Morison
Director for Biological and Medical Research
Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49 Street
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Morison:

The Rockefeller Foundation has been supporting our research in microbial genetics for several years. While a fair proportion of our research support now comes from federal sources as well, I have always treasured the aid from the Rockefeller grants, not only because of the amounts they represented, but because of their continuity and flexibility of application.

Our current aid from the Foundation consists of a four-year grant which will expire August 31, 1957, so that now is none too soon to initiate a request for its renewal. Furthermore, I will be leaving about August 1 for a three months' tour in Australia (lectures at the University of Melbourne and some research with Professor Burnet on virus genetics.) The award was for \$25,000, with a proviso that up to \$7,500 might be spent in a single year. I would be personally quite pleased if the terms of the award could be duplicated without revision, although increases in costs, and especially in salaries over the past four years would make a slight advance, say to 30,000 - 8,000 quite desirable.

As you may know, I now have an affiliation with the School of Medicine as Professor and Chairman of its new Department of Medical Genetics. The activities of this department are being organized now; Assistant Professor Morton is already working at the medical school, and will shortly occupy laboratory space in the new Bardeen wing. In addition, we are contemplating rounding out our program with another member. Dean Bowers and I may very likely be in further communication with you as our plans and policies materialize. Meanwhile, however, my own research program continues to be housed in this department. We are now drawing plans for new facilities in a Research Addition to the medical school, for which the construction funds have been appropriated. It is likely to be at least two years from now before my own program can be moved to this wing. Then as now, I would retain the closest affiliation with this department. Until then, it is only appropriate that I should continue to budget research funds for my own program through this department and the College of Agriculture.

I am therefore writing on behalf of the continuity of my existing work in microbial genetics. In due course, it may be more apt to contemplate

the coordination of the budget for microbial genetics research with that of the overall program in medical genetics. However, until that program has evolved, it is urgent that I have security for the means to continue our present operations.

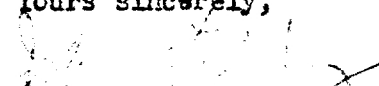
In view of the likelihood of the move to the medical school wing in about two years, a four year commitment may be longer than necessary. If it can be made however, I would prefer to have it, with the proviso that we might review the channel of support in two years. If, however, the Foundation would prefer a two year grant now, this would be satisfactory also.

Needless to say, my colleagues and I have been most gratified at the interest and support that the Foundation has shown in our work, and I will be the more so if it finds it possible to continue its support. Please let me know in good time if I have neglected any detail.

As you well know, a formal endorsement through the College of Agriculture and the office of President Fred will be required in due course to ratify this application. I will initiate a request for that action as soon as I have had your reaction and advice on this proposal.

It happens that I have had occasion to prepare a resume of nearly ten years' work here for other purposes. I am enclosing a copy, as it nearly coincides with the term of the Foundation's support, and I thought there might be some use for a brief, if admittedly oversimplified and biased, appreciation.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

636