

May 11, 1957

Dr. Robert S. Morison
Biological and Medical Research
Rockefeller Foundation
New York 20, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Morison:

I will continue to address this correspondence to you, knowing that Dr. Anderson may be your deputy for an interval.

I am very sorry that I had not communicated with you sooner, especially as regards our travel plans.

It is easy to see the logic of the general principles underlying your letter of May 8. Of course, it can be added that the basic support which the Foundation has given my research program has encouraged other investments, from other agencies, and in that sense done multiple duty.

It is true that the long-term plans for the development of medical genetics are still to be consolidated, though this is proceeding rapidly. It is also true that my own longstanding research program in microbial genetics will be continuing, and would be acutely embarrassed by a sudden cessation of support from an important source. In the light of these considerations, I would be very happy indeed to have a two-year renewal of my present grant, with the understanding that in that interval our overall pattern of support would be reviewed. For reasons of local policy, I would prefer that my research continue to be budgeted through the College of Agriculture, so long as my facilities remain on this campus. In about two years, we would have moved to a new research wing at the medical school. That time would seem to be most appropriate for looking at medical genetics as a whole. However, if the Foundation would prefer an integration, at this time, of its support to my own research program, and to the development of medical genetics, through a single grant to the medical school, this could also be arranged. My main immediate concern is sufficient continuity of support to allow enough time for well-thought-out proposals to various sources.

Dean Bowers is about to return from his own European trip, and if he has not already communicated with you, I am sure he will before long.

Cordially yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics