

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

November 10, 1958

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Office of the Dean

Dr. Frederick L. Stone
Division of General Medical Sciences
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Doctor Stone:

Dr. Lederberg wrote me in September at the time you and he briefly discussed a possible package proposal for research and research training in genetics at Stanford. Subsequently he and I had a telephone conversation relative to this and more recently I have read and re-read all of the now rather voluminous correspondence which Josh and I have had about the pleasantly overwhelming opportunities presented by his joining the Stanford faculty. Unavoidable trips away from Stanford, several weeks devoted almost exclusively to pressing intramural problems and a bout with a no-longer orphan virus combined to delay my writing directly to you earlier.

The material from Dr. Lederberg accompanying his letter dated October 8 puts down, very much to my satisfaction, the opportunities which can be expected here at Stanford. My only complaint would be that he may have too modestly assessed the potentials. A dominant philosophy running throughout all of the deliberations and plans leading to the establishment of Stanford Medical School on the Stanford campus has been the interdigitation of general University and Medical School interests and efforts. There is, of course, no question about the cooperation of the Departments of Radiology, Pharmacology and Biochemistry under Drs. Kaplan, Goldstein, and Kornberg respectively. It is to me of equal significance that we would not have with such enthusiasm pursued the possibility of persuading Dr. Lederberg to join us here at Stanford had not Professor Victor Twitty, Executive of the Department of Biology, and his associates Yanofsky, Grebstein, and Perkins been equally enthusiastic. Furthermore, our Provost, F. E. Terman, and the Dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences Philip Rhinelander, played vital roles in expediting the establishment of a Department of Genetics in Stanford University's School of Medicine. I mention all of the preceding because I believe that the climate is already so favorable that much of the preliminary work, which in many schools takes years to accomplish, is already past us here.

Dr. Lederberg has a proper concern for the development of genetic oriented personnel within the clinical departments of the Medical School. This is not only reassuring to me but an interest which I would look upon as essential. We have no intention of calling upon Josh to cover these areas but know that his own abilities will support those whom we develop or bring in to the clinical departments. Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Pediatrics all, or at least each, might anticipate a staff member interested in and capable of genetic oriented activities. Perhaps the best earnest of

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my own feelings is the fact that I encouraged my associate, Dr. Ruth T. Gross, Associate Professor and Acting Executive of the Department of Pediatrics, to plan on taking her sabbatical year during 1959-60. This is, of course, just at the time of our move to the campus. Despite the fact that Dr. Gross has been a key person in the development of our new curriculum and particularly of one segment of it, Introduction to Clinical Medicine, I believe that her devotion of a year to a solid grounding in genetics will bring her back an even more effective member of our Medical School faculty. She has had extensive correspondence with Dr. Lederberg concerning this and she is going to follow his suggestions in seeking the best possible locale for this study.

I shall be in Washington on December 4th should you wish to talk directly with me about Dr. Lederberg's proposal. I believe, however, that he has such an excellent grasp of his new environment that he can best pursue the development of this program himself, calling upon me for such administrative expediting as may be helpful. Please be assured that this has the enthusiastic support of the School of Medicine.

Yours sincerely,

Robert H. Alway, M.D.
Dean

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