



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE

NEW YORK, NY 10021

March 22, 1984

x(Y)
AS
3/22/84

JOSHUA LEDERBERG
PRESIDENT

Dr. R. C. Olby
Department of Philosophy
The University of Leeds
Leeds LS2 9JT
England

P 107
↓
(Olby
Answer-Mico).

Dear Dr. Olby:

Thank you for your note.

Since January 20, 1945 (when I first read the Avery paper of 2/1/44), nothing seemed more important. What you are picking up in my 1949 was my last ditch quibble about the formal proof that the STUFF was DNA: the matter was too important to let pass with less!

DNA \equiv genes was however the prime heuristic of my own work with Neurospora, and then E. coli K12!

I have had trouble with others getting across that a point should remain disputable despite one's expectation that it be "true", and the use of that truth as working hypothesis.

Likewise many people query that I could spend much energy looking for life on Mars, not for "believing" that it is there, but rather that it was an important and unsettled issue. Am I the odd one?

The operative phase on that page is perhaps my assumption that my audience was fully acquainted with the DNA story, and like myself was watching for every further contribution with bated breath.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg

Encl.

J. Mc Donald corresp.
p53a contents
"papers-uw" contents