

February 12, 1958

Dr. J. Walter Wilson
Department of Biology
Brown University
Providence 12, Rhode Island

Dear Walter:

As a matter of fact I think I can suggest someone who would be a first class candidate as a biological bacteriologist. He happens to be my brother, Dr. Seymour Lederberg, and in the ordinary course of affairs I would simply refer you to Luria and Stanier for detailed information on account of our fraternal relationship. There is a question of time however as he is considering some alternative possibilities right now so I will enlarge a bit. He does plan to take a trip east at the end of this month to look over another possibility, so if you did want to have a chance to confer with him, you might find it advantageous to contact him directly.

At the present time he is a "visiting assistant professor of bacteriology" at the University of California at Berkeley. This is a strictly temporary position which was created to relieve Stanier of his teaching duties for a period of time while he was on a research fellowship in situ. Seymour took his Ph.D. in bacteriology with Luria and has always had a strong biochemical orientation. He then spent two years on a post-doctoral fellowship with Dan Mazia in the Zoology Department at Berkeley. He has been working on the interchange between RNA and DNA in Tetrahymena.

I won't go so far as to offer what would inevitably be a biased assessment of his qualifications. I know that he enjoys teaching as well as research and he has often expressed an interest in pursuing his career in the context of general biology rather than bacteriology.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew

P. S. I am sure you would have the discretion not to bring my name into any conversations you may have with Seymour.