

January 21, 1953

Dr. M. Demerec  
L. I. Biol. Assn.  
Cold Spring Harbor, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Dr. Demerec:

Thank you for your recent invitation to participate in the forthcoming symposium on Viruses. Mrs. Lederberg and I would like to reserve accommodations for the entire symposium. Owing to other possible contingencies, our plans for the summer are still tentative, but we will give you ample notice of any changes.

I will not comment in detail on the program, which is excellent except where it strays from the stated subject. I appreciate that it would be too late to alter it at this date, and that Dr. Delbruck shares responsibility for its organization.

However, the very structure of the program is not sufficiently clear for us to proceed with the preparation of a manuscript. In previous years, there has been no distinction between "papers" and "discussions", and I must ask what significance these hold now. I am more concerned about the scope in subject and extent for the ms. than for the informal presentations at the conference. As things stand now, I have no notion of the kind of contribution I am expected to formulate, nor how much leeway we may have in choice of subject matter, length of oral discussion, or pages of manuscript. Let me reassure you that we have no intention of preparing an opus magnum such as occupied so many pages of the 1951 volume. Unfortunately, we have a contractual obligation that obliges us to clear our remarks and gs. some weeks before their presentation. For this reason, an early clarification would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg