

MICHIGAN STATE COLLEGE
EAST LANSING

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

January 25, 1955

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

H. J. Stafseth, Chairman of our Department of Bacteriology and Public Health, is in his last year before retirement. In anticipation of this event, a group of men in Biology have been informally discussing possible successors. Recognizing the importance of this appointment for the future of Biology at this Institution, we are anxious that the new Chairman be a good one. We consequently have decided to write to a few of our friends who may have suggestions to make along these lines.

The Department of Bacteriology and Public Health at this Institution is in both the School of Science and Arts and the School of Veterinary Medicine. It is a large department, occupying a large new building, with superb basic equipment. It is, however, an "old line" department, which places heavy emphasis on Applied Bacteriology. In this area it has achieved some excellence, but it has lagged behind seriously in modern basic research. It offers the usual courses in General and Applied Bacteriology, but Immunology and Bacterial Genetics are completely unrepresented, and Physiology and Biochemistry have only token representation.

A fortunate appointment of a new Chairman would provide the opportunity to remedy this state of affairs. There are heavy pressures, however, to continue the present program of Applied Research. It becomes necessary therefore to look for a man who could satisfy these pressures and who would at the same time have the necessary breadth and vigor to build the kind of department which we would desire.

I would greatly appreciate any suggestions that you can make. Needless to say, this inquiry is strictly confidential.

Cordially yours,



Allen S. Fox
Associate Professor of Zoology

*Brace
Carruth
Edwards*



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