

March 10, 1949.

Dr. Robert Jastrow,  
c/o Rutgers,  
Merelstraat 41,  
Leiden, Holland.

Dear Bob,

It was a pleasant surprise to hear from you. I know only that you had finished with your doctorate work and Columbia, and had no notion where you had gone.

We are enjoying Madison very much, and I have no doubt that you would like it as well. I don't know very much about the Physics Dept. here, except for Robert Sachs, who is a neighbour of ours. His interests are in nuclear forces on the theoretical side, while Herb and some of his associates are doing some experimental work with the remarkable van de Graaf that he built some time ago. Sachs, at any rate, is a wonderful fellow. The department may be expanding, although the legislature has more or less dampened the university's exuberance in this direction. If you are at all interested, I recommend that you or your "boss" contact the department directly.

For some personal history: I went to Yale in March '46, to do some work with Tatum on bacterial genetics, first as an elective research quarter, then on leave of absence. The work turned out unexpectedly well, so I took my PhD there using it as a thesis. I had planned to go back to P&S in Fall '47 to finish up my M.D., but this job came along, and I decided to take it instead. It seems to have been a good choice, as I have an excellent opportunity here to develop my program. I have my own lab setup, students etc., and a reasonably clear field to do my work in. The point of departure was our discovery that a sexual cycle could be demonstrated in bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) with genetic methods, and we have our work nearly cut out for us in exploring the genetics of this nearly untouched group. A lot of biochemical, serological and virus problems have come into the picture, but I don't want to sound like the reviews I've been writing.

Madison itself is probably the most attractive town in the Midwest, both from the physiographic and the cultural point of view. The biggest rub is housing, but that is true anywhere, and is easing off quite a bit. We look forward to seeing you here.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
((Asst Professor of Genetics))