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RUSSELL A. NELSON, M. D., DIRECTOR

27 June 1954

Dear Joshua,

In three days my duties at Hopkins will come to an end, and I shall plunge into the lab at Yale. It will be possible to take time to think and enjoy some of these biological problems in the laboratory once again.

I do not know how matters stand out there now as far as that "copper" organism is concerned. However, until the work is better organized on a genetic basis I could as you suggest pursue the DNA of some of the yeasts. If and when you have the time and are still interested, why don't you send a few grams of yeast of the type you are working on so that I might begin to work out satisfactory analysis of the DNA. Of course I am vitally interested in working on the DNA of the copper bug as soon as is feasible. And I wonder if it would not be worthwhile whether it is mutant or a transformation or what it is. I shall be very interested to hear how things are going. As Tom Courtenay said when I last saw him, it is not surprising to us that troubles have come your way because of our own experiences. When I first noted the phenomenon everything clicked in every experiment - including the 15 tube ones. ~~We~~ We put the work aside for a while to work on the new virus nucleotide and we returned to it the next spring ~~AND~~ although we could reproduce everything eventually, many things were very stubborn. Whether the organisms changed somewhat or whether the new media (there was very rapid turnover of materials in the lab) or what was never clear. Little things like small changes in the NaCl content of the media threw us off etc.

My address in New Haven will be:

Dr. Lawrence L. Weed
Department of Pharmacology
School of Medicine
Yale University
Cedar Street
New Haven, Conn.

I shall be busy initiating some work on tumors, but it will be interesting to carry some side projects as the opportunities arise - especially any that touch on genetics.

My best to you and thanks for your stimulating letters during the year. I am sorry I was not able to answer them more carefully at the time.

Sincerely yours,

Lawry

Lawrence L. Weed.