

October 12, 1948

Dr. M. R. Zelle
Department of Bacteriology
Cornell University
Ithaca, New York

Dear Zelle:

I was pleased to hear from you; sorry I didn't realize you were arriving at Cornell so late.

As to the scope of the program, I think that is entirely up to you. I would be very pleased to be the junior author of any publication which resulted from collaborative work on the single-cell isolates. I am carrying through our studies without single-cell, and hope to have these ready for publication before too much longer.

I would prefer an arrangement whereby I could get back the single cell isolates for detailed characterizations. I think we probably are better equipped to do that both from the point of view of facilities and close experience.

As it stands now, the picture is rather complex. The heterozygotes seem to be deficient for some loci on one of the chromosomes, and I have evidence that apart from segregation, there are occasional changes in the structure of the heterozygote, essentially of the character of further losses of chromosome parts. These deletions would undoubtedly behave as lethals when hemizygous, and could account for the non random segregations. The capacity to produce heterozygous progeny in crosses is transmitted; I am studying its inheritance.

"An evenings work", merely the isolation of a few single heterozygote cells, would be very helpful indeed, if only to prove that a cell can be heterozygotic, and I would be grateful for it, but I think the problem merits a more extended study.

Just on the long chance you might be near New York City at the time, I might mention that I expect to be in New Haven the week of November 2. A personal discussion would be more profitable than a dozen letter.

Inasmuch as we are developing new and better stocks all the time, I'm going to wait until you give me the word that you are ready to begin operations before sending them. I can send you all the medio that would be needed.

With best wishes to you in your new post,

Yours, *

Joshua Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics

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