

January 26, 1956

Miss Ann Katharine Cook  
54 East Main Street, Apt. 5  
Newark, Delaware

Dear Miss Cook:

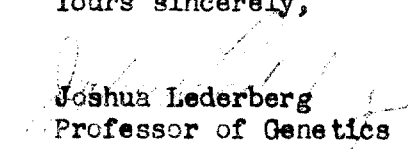
Your application for an assistantship in microbial genetics has been referred to me, and I wanted to acknowledge it now. It will be some weeks before we have reviewed all of the competing applications; we will let you know of the status of your application at the earliest possible date. Meanwhile, I hope you will have contemplated applying for a National Science Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, as an alternative means of support. If you have any difficulty in getting information about this program locally, you could write directly to the Foundation (Washington 25, D.C.)

I noticed from your transcript that while you had not exposed yourself to any college mathematics, you had succeeded in courses in "atomic physics" and "experimental spectroscopy". Your paper also implied some mathematical facility. Have you done any self-study in this field— if so, to what extent?

Your term paper also indicated your interest in variation in *Serratia marcescens*. Did you know that Mrs. Bunting is now Dean of Douglas College (N.J. State College for Women) which is not very far from you at New Brunswick, N.J. Unfortunately, I do not believe she has much time any longer for research, but she is a very congenial person and I am sure would be happy to advise you on opportunities for graduate work if any problems come up.

The main consideration that we have to keep in mind is a rather intense competition for research space, and I will not be able to tell you how your application fares for a little while. However, I have an urgent vacancy for someone of about your level of training to work as a full-time assistant in this laboratory. The position would not preclude registration for a limited course schedule, and further adjustments could be made the following year. If, as an alternative (not necessarily exclusive) to your application for a half-time assistantship on a regular student basis, you would be interested in this full-time position, please let me know (and when you would be available). The stipend for assistantships at present is \$3,120 on a full-time, calendar year basis (12 mos. less 1 mo vacation), and correspondingly less for academic year and half-time appointments.

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics