

# HARVARD UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

12 Oxford Street  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

May 22, 1958

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
College of Agriculture  
The University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

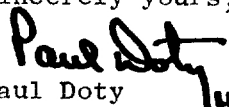
The only person I can suggest for your opening that you do not surely know better than I is Sidney Brenner. In this case I do not know his past work and can only judge from his many conversations I have had with him here in Cambridge, England, where I have been since February. His background ranges from physical chemistry to neurophysiology and the work that he is doing now on the components of bacteriophage will, I think, deserve the label "classic." So far as I can judge he has an extremely broad and fundamental knowledge of both genetics and biochemistry. I think I have enjoyed more my conversations with him than anyone else here. So from this very personal appraisal I should recommend him to you very highly.

I do not know Ernst Freese nearly as well although he attended my lectures in macromolecules last fall and we had a number of discussions after class. To me his most striking characteristic was the intensity with which he is applying himself to his own particular problem. In my conversations with him he showed a great deal of physical intuition and an enormous drive. My chief worry about him would be in whether or not he would obtain the breadth of knowledge and interest that you would probably like to have. On the other hand, I do not think the effectiveness of his intense preoccupation should be underestimated. Aside from this, however, I think you will have to depend upon Jim and Seymour for a complete evaluation of him.

With regard to our own problems, you should certainly know that Pontecorvo has taken the place you occupied a year ago. Unfortunately it looks as though the outcome will be the same because Cambridge has apparently decided to give him what he wants and so it appears that he will come here. I don't know where we shall turn next but we shall probably be asking your advice. Meanwhile, Jim Watson is being promoted to Associate Professor and Pappenheimer will arrive in the fall. But we have a long way to go.

With very best regards,

Sincerely yours,

  
Paul Doty

PD:lwl

Dictated by Professor Doty but signed in his absence.