



LLCS/bm

April 24, 1963

ISTITUTO DI GENETICA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA  
VIA SANT'EPIFANIO, 14  
PAVIA

Prof. Joshua Lederberg  
Stanford University  
Medical Center  
Department of Genetics  
P a l o A l t o, Calif.

Dear Joshua,

I hope the last message by tape was not too garbled. I would like to take up again a point I had in my tape because it is particularly urgent. This is the question of Howard Cann's stay next year. He has no chance of having an extension of his present N.S.F. fellowship which expires in July, because of N.S.F. policy. He may, however, be able to get a new N.I.H. or N.S.F. fellowship for next year but he would not be able to know before December, which means a 5 or 6 months gap in his salary. He is rather interested to stay another year and has permission from Norman to do so. We could not possibly give him a salary for that period on our present funds, but I would like to help him, if I can, because I am sure he would have a greater benefit if he stays here another year. I am proposing to send to N.A.T.O. the enclosed request of a grant which would be meant mostly to cover a year's stay for Howard (8,500 \$), <sup>or</sup> if he could get a N.I.H. or N.S.F. fellowship starting in December, it would at least serve to cover the gap. We could certainly use the rest of the grant at the Department, as we are short of money in this period.

N.A.T.O. is interested only in programs involving international collaboration. So it would be doubly useful to add project 2 of the program, in which your name is

./.

*Howard's story or of  
birth month effect.*

mentioned. If you have nothing against it, and do not mind writing a letter which we could add to the request of grant, it would increase the chance of acceptance, and we could try to develop something along the lines vaguely suggested in the project, which might probably interest you. If you have any other suggestion on this matter, I would be grateful.

Analysis of the effect of the month of birth has not given any result so far with the conscripts data, but the analysis is not yet complete; I will let you know as soon as it is complete.

I have received from you some computer output that seem to be sex ratio data, versus month of birth, graphed by computer. If this is so, the high peak in January and the low peak in December probably correspond to the delayed notifications of male births, which occurred in December and were notified in January, a phenomenon which had been studied earlier.

Although we still have troubles in getting fluorine gas compounds; we hope to start the first fluoropoiesis experiment this week.\* It is rather remarkable that in an analogue of the Miller experiment the pressure in the reaction vessel first goes down (in the first 20 minutes since the electric discharge starts to operate) and only after that starts going up slowly. We have at the moment no explanation for the initial downfall.

All the best,

*Luca*

L.L. Cavalli-Sforza

*\* weak activity and stage found using freon -  
Troubles due to formation of polymer (?) forced to  
stop experiment after first 3 hours -*