

Department of Genetics

November 19, 1958

Dr. Leonard Herzenberg
Experimental Therapeutics Laboratory
NIAID, National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Md.

Dear Leonard:

I am writing to ask whether you would be interested in discussing the possibility of an appointment in this department and, if so, how we might best bring the matter to a conclusion. The problem is that I am terribly tied up for the immediate present, and am likely to be until we move out to Stanford the end of this semester. If it would be possible for you to wait until then, the ideal arrangement would be to ask you to visit Stanford after I get there, say about February 15. The new medical center won't be finished until July, and we will be in temporary quarters, but there will still be a great advantage to having you on the spot to talk things over, if you are still free to act. Also, it is a little difficult for me to make firm commitments at just this time.

What I would like to say is that we are trying to collect a group of geneticists and cellular biologists in which your particular research interests and skills would play a unique part. You would of course have complete responsibility for your own program but I think I'm guessing right in thinking you already have your mind fixed on goals in the genetic analysis of somatic cells that could not better match the rest of our program. I am enclosing some material that may help to refresh your memory on the extent to which Stanford is differentiating in just this direction, and I assume you diffused far enough from Pasadena during your graduate work to have a good idea of the geographic setting. The Genetics Department is primarily a research institute, and you won't be burdened with more than a few (let's say 10, to set a definite number which is probably too high) hours a year of obligatory teaching to the medical students. On the other hand, I would expect that you would want to develop some graduate courses in your own specialty-- let me know if I have misjudged that. The title and rank I am prepared to discuss at this instant is an instructorship, which would give us both a probationary period, but I should stress first that at Stanford Medical School this is coupled with a salary that compares favorably with the assistant professorships here at Wisconsin (perhaps better), and second that I would consider my confidence grossly misplaced if your appointment did not rapidly progress to higher and to tenure ranks. I am quite ready and authorized to make you a firm offer, the main question in my own mind being the practical details, and not in any way your aptness for the job (and vice versa). But, provided you yourself are receptive and uncommitted, I think it would work out much more smoothly if we could postpone the discussion until February. If this is impractical for you, I will just do the best I can meanwhile. However, I think you will see the complexity of my own position, what with not having occupied the fort myself, concern about moving, and having an ad hoc trip to Sweden next month.

Could you tell me when you would prefer to make your appointment effective? This might be almost at your own convenience, preferably during the earlier part of 1959-60.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Executive Head + Professor