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Professor Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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Dear Joshua!

All the best wishes to Esther and you from Barbara and me for a happy new Year and for a good start in Stanford. Excuse the delay of my letter please, but in the ~~months~~ last months of the old year I performed my habilitation and in the same time I did fall very ill with ~~x~~ ischio-lumbalgia and I could be restored to health only after a bad jaw operation. But now all things are all right and I am very assiduous to make new mutations in my starforming bacteria strains to get better recombination results.

But before talking about bacteria take ones more the best congratulations from Barbara and me for the Nobel Price. We are very happy that you get this honourable appreciation for the ingenious scientific building build from you. Now we are double proud of working in your lab.

In October 1958 Barbara and I made a trip by car to northern Italy and visited Professor Cavalli in Pavia. We was very happy to meet him. We talk about your visit in April this year. By this occasion Barbara and I would be very glad to meet Esther and you. I don't know your travel route, but perhaps you can touch Braunschweig. Hannover, 70km from Braunschweig, has an Airport, where I could pick up you with my car. Esther and you are always our welcome guests and I should like to show you my lab and to speak with you over the progress of my scientific work.

All my experiments with strain B₆ reveal difficulties to get clear cut nutritional mutants, but because this strain is very convenient for the connection of genetical and morphological work with regard to his large cells I must insist to get useful forms. I have another Agrobacterium strain, his cells are much smaller than B₆, but it is much easier to induce mutants with UV irradiation and select them with your methods. Now I have an streptomycin resistant and an amino acid auxotroph form and I will get some other mutants in the next time. So I think to ~~perform~~ perform new recombination experiments during this year.

Many thanks to Esther and you for your seasons greetings and your good wishes from Stockholm.

With best regards to Esther from Barbara and Irene

I am sincerely yours



Enclosed some stamps for your collection.