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Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
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Madison 6, Wisconsin
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Dear Josh:

It has been a long time since I wrote you last. This does not mean however that I have forgotten the most stimulating and useful discussions I had with you two years ago. In fact we have carried along the lines we discussed quite a great deal. This type of work is always very slow since you have to produce the necessary genotypes and tumors. We have performed the model experiments we have been talking about and they turned out very hopeful indeed, more so than we should have thought. I enclose a photocopy of a recent paper in Nature. Since this paper was written we have obtained what seems to be mutations in an $H-2^aH-2^s$ tumor to the genotype $H-2^sH-2^s$. This is suggested by transplantation tests (the changed tumor would take in $H-2^sH-2^s$ but not in $H-2^aH-2^a$ or any other genotype) and also by a great deal of serological evidence (the unchanged tumor provokes anti- $H-2^a$ antibodies in foreign genotypes while the changed tumor does not). The amazing thing is that we have obtained this type of change five times but so far failed to obtain any change to the other homozygous type $H-2^aH-2^a$. We have obtained the change to $H-2^sH-2^s$ in one particular tumor only but not in three other similar tumors that were studied in a similar way. I am now trying to write this up for publication.

There is another question that I am eager to write you about. The International Congress of Microbiology will be held in Stockholm in 1958, as you probably know. I have been asked by the local organizing

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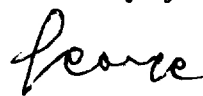
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committee to help them to arrange the sessions on transformation, transduction and recombination. I have accepted this under the condition that I may ask an expert in this field to give us recommendations as to how these session should be organized best and what people should be invited. Would you be willing to help us in this matter? Of course we should be most anxious to make it sure that you would come yourself. The congress will probably have funds at its disposal to invite a few outstanding people and cover their expenses. They will not be able to do this for everybody, of course, and the majority of the participants in any one session will have to be chosen necessarily from the spontaneous applications for membership which are expected to arrive here in about two months. We should be very anxious, however, to invite you in particular and perhaps also a few other people whose participation would be of great importance and who can be expected to have difficulties to obtain travel funds at home. Please let me know how you would feel about this, and whether you would be willing to advise us in this matter. At the present stage this is all very exploratory.

Eva and I were over in the United States last Fall but we had unfortunately no chance to come to Wisconsin. I shall be at a meeting in Rhode Island in June but again I am not sure whether I can go towards West. At any rate we hope very much to see you here in 1958 if we do not meet before.

With warmest regards,

sincerely yours,



George Klein