

December 14, 1959

Professor George Klein
Institute for Tumor Biology
Karolinska Institutet
Stockholm 60, Sweden

Dear George:

We were really highly delighted to receive your letter of December 8. I am sure you will work out what best to do with the children, as time goes on. If Eva plans on working, as I am sure she does, it might be reasonable to keep the child(ren) at home and employ someone to keep watch on them there. (This would cost considerably less than her own salary). In any case, there are no problems indicated that cannot be dealt with as they come up.

I was interested in your remark about 'debt'. I used to feel that way too about a mortgage, and we went to great effort to own our last home in Madison free of any debt. But Californian standards are quite different, and at Stanford it has been a useful inducement that the University would extend a loan for 30 years to cover the cost of our construction. I think the inevitable (if, hopefully slow) loss of values through inflation, as well as our income tax structure, tend to encourage keeping savings in this fashion. In any case, there is no question we have the responsibility of financing your trip so that, at least, you have no cash disadvantage.

We can arrange an appointment for you as Visiting Professor of Genetics for the Summer Quarter of 1961. This position can carry a salary of \$1,000 per month for approximately the period of your actual visit; we could also employ Eva as a Visiting Research Associate in Genetics for \$600 per month on the same basis. (These figures are perhaps conservative, but I mention them as being definitely within our budgetary capacity; if you had no other support, or if they fail to meet your additional expenses, we might find some means of improving them.) We have no direct means, at the moment, of paying an additional travel stipend, as such. Let me know if you think these funds might cover the situation, or if we should look for other sources as well. The Summer Quarter should last, approximately, from June 20 to August 30; however, we would be happy if you wished to make your appointments for the entire three months of June-July-August (or even longer); these are among the best months of the year here, from the standpoint of climate. Housing might be easiest to arrange for the period June 15-Sept. 15; my only reservation about that is the possibility that I might be attending the Pacific Science Congress in Honolulu early in September, but this is not decisive, and anyhow I do not have the exact dates. None of this has to be settled in detail for almost another year. The main thing is to know that you are coming, so that we can concentrate our efforts at making this a mutually rewarding experience.

I would suggest that you contact Julian Mack at the American Embassy: (1) to get details on your tax status under various forms of entry -- for example, Luca Cavalli found it was quite important whether he stayed here for 89 vs. 91 days, and (2) whether there are some US travel fellowships that might be of some use to you (the chief limitation might be the brief duration of your visit). The ostensible purpose of your visit, as we have discussed, would be a lecture course you might give either on the role of experimental animals in medical research (with emphasis on the function of genetic control), or on the biological bases of cancer research. We are of course looking forward not only to this, but to having you work with us in the laboratory.

I would urge you not to ask Rockefeller for a travel fellowship-- at least the ones they have habitually offered would be grossly underpaid in the context of your own status and services, however welcome they have been for younger students in the past.

Your most unusual costs while here will probably be for housing. Don't be shocked by the figure, but you will certainly be paying about \$250 per month for a good furnished house. (In fact you might do well to inherit the house that the Drs. Makela are now using, as they may be leaving at just the right time.) You will also need a car, but if you buy a moderately good one you should be able to resell it for very little loss. So these costs are still really ~~just~~ well within your allowances, and your main costs will doubtless be the travel for the family group. We will of course be able to help you with most of these details, and you shouldn't spend much thought worrying about them.

I have been distressed to hear of Laci's difficulties, which are quite incomprehensible. After his letter in October, I started to write to Mack and to Washington, but Joe Kriss then told me it was just a technicality. It sounds more sinister now, and I am trying to think what would be most useful. I will at least write to Wallace Brode at the State Department, and I also asked Arthur Kornberg to make some inquiry while he was in Stockholm. I don't understand it at all.

We must thank you again for your lovely gift. How do you have time to think of such pleasant gestures? Our own shipments have arrived from N-Ko, and beautifully overflow our small house. Esther has probably written you something of our house plans, which have just gone out for bids.

As ever to both of you,
and to Peter and Margareta Independenta,


Joshua Lederberg