

INST. FÖR TUMÖRBIOLOGI
KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET
STOCKHOLM 60

DEPT. OF TUMOR BIOLOGY
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STOCKHOLM 60

Stockholm, December 5, 1960

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Medical Center
Palo Alto, Calif.
USA

Dear Joshua:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 30. I certainly think that the possibility of polyoma virus acting on the host rather than primarily on the somatic cells must be considered seriously. On the other hand, our other data regarding the in vivo transplantation of polyoma tumors and the resistance of virus-immunized hosts against them indicate the presence in the cells of some virus-determined antigen(s), do they not? This would still speak for the existence of the virus in the cells in some integrated form, although it would have to be of such a nature that it would not cause immunity against superinfection. Does anything of this kind happen in any bacterial system?

As to the methylcholanthrene-experiment which you have suggested, it is now clear that topical application of methylcholanthrene facilitates the take of small cell doses from methylcholanthrene induced sarcomas. Unfortunately, however, the same is true for the pure solvents. We have tested trioctanoin and sesame oil as solvents and both do it. This appears to be a non-specific phenomenon, probably due to the development of granulation tissue and consecutive non-specific stimulation of the type Révész has seen before in other systems. How do we get away from it?

I was just wondering whether we should apply for the visa of the maid already now or should wait until our own papers arrive from the States. The Consul advised us to do the latter. On the other hand, should this be delayed with some months, the danger arises that there will not be enough time left to clear the maid through all red tape which may take a good deal of time for somebody who has never had a visa before. Since this may endanger the whole trip, I am wondering whether you think that we should wait for our papers or go ahead?

With affectionate greetings, also to Esther,

Yours,



George Klein