

*Leu*

February 28, 1957

Dear Syd:

We have the numerous schedules, syllabi, etc., and will be working to give our interaction with them.

This is proving to be an incredibly hectic year. We could easily have managed and enjoyed our projected trips, if a 'normal' state of affairs prevailed. However this has happened: (more or less independently)

1. The Medical School, under the leadership of an energetic new dean (John Z. Bowers) has become interested in genetics, and I am being ~~nominated~~ nominated for the chair of a new department of Medical Genetics. There is a certain amount of organizational work to be done, in connection with planning a new research wing (scheduled for 1959 compl.) in which Medical Genetics will be housed. We will also be seeking another major appointment.

2. Almost simultaneously, I have had very attractive offers from Stanford and from Berkeley. I am still very much interested in the latter, 1) notwithstanding.

3. Last night, I received a phone call from Professor Thimann at Harvard. Yes, you guessed it.

4. As we know, we are going to a Ciba symposium, and will be away March 6-31. [You can write me c/o Ciba Foundation, 41 Portland Pl., London W.1 until then].

5. I have promised the ms. for a book on Bacterial Recombination by this summer. If not for (1-4), this would have been easy.

We are still quite anxious to make our Australian visit, and as of this moment are quite prepared to continue per present plans. However, I would like to ask you very tentatively how it would strike you if we advanced our schedule by two months. That is, we would arrive in early August, and make the visits and meetings already planned, and teach through September and October. Don't take this up with anyone else till you've told me how this would work in with your academic schedule. This rearrangement could have some other advantages, e.g., in regard to climate and to Burnet's schedule (since he'll be away for some part of June-July.)

I think I'd better drop my proposal for extra lectures, until my mind's settled on these other matters. I had thought of half-a-dozen or so on general issues of physiological genetics, but anything needed might be worked out after arrival.

We are not certain that this change in date would be advantageous to us, but it might turn out so, and for that reason I wanted your opinion first.

With all the best,

*Joshua Lederberg*  
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