

Prof. J. Lederberg
Department of Genetics
The University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wis. U.S.A.

Dear Lederberg,

I have made the application for a Fulbright Travel Grant, and I hope to be able to cross the Ocean and meet you somewhere in the new World this Summer. I have applied on the basis of a letter by Bonner inviting me for a period of three months and guaranteeing me a support of 1,000 dollars.

I confess that I am no longer very sure that I made the best choice. Biochemistry of Neurospora is of course a wonderful field, but Genetics of Streptomyces is very much more attractive to me. After the first success the progress in this field has been very laborious, the quantitative reproducibility of the results was low, and I have been somewhat distracted from this topic. I realize that, to overcome this lag phase, it would be necessary for me to devote all my energies to this field, which now occupies only 20 per cent of my time.

A short period of collaborative work with Bradley would be, as far I can see, the best start, and a longer period could perhaps bring us to some consistent achievement.

I must confess I have no idea how I could manage to join Bradley for a longer period than a week. I could postpone my return from the U.S.A., and spend a few months with Bradley, but how could I justify this program to Bonner? Moreover I cannot stay in the U.S.A. without an adequate support, and Bradley has not significant funds available.

A possible arrangement would be to have Bradley in my laboratory. But I am afraid that, unless he gets a grant from the U.S., I won't be able to find any financial support for him.

This last solution would allow my wife also collaborate with Bradley.

I would be grateful if you could suggest a way in which I might join Bradley. I trust that sooner or later this will be possible and, at least, I hope to profit from my coming subjour in the U.S. to make some arrangement for the future.

With my best regards to you and Mrs Lederberg from my wife and myself.

Sincerely yours



(G.Sermonti)

Rome, February 6th, 1958.