

Dr. Charles P. Shaw
2126 Geddes Avenue
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Hez:

Your letter of July 28 was very much appreciated. I'm sorry that I did not get to see it until just now since Esther and I have just returned from a grand tour. The first part of our trip was to Paris and Stockholm for some meetings and then later we flew from London direct to San Francisco to clean up some Stanford business and then finally we are back home.

First of all, I thought I should disillusion you about the cultural level of your colleagues in child psychiatry. I can think of at least one other person who is likely to know what a heterokaryon is, and if you don't know him already it's about time you did. I'm speaking about John Benjamin at Denver.

All joking aside, I am only too keenly aware of the things you are complaining about. As a matter of fact I have already long since wondered what the ultimate prospect might be for attracting people like yourself, and including yourself, to the psychiatry program at Stanford because nothing would delight me more than to have some sympathetic contacts in the other departments. If I haven't already mentioned your name, and I suspect I have, it is mainly because the staff situation at Stanford is rather fluid at the present time and new appointments are pending for the headships of the departments of pediatrics, medicine, surgery, and psychiatry just now. Bob Alway has only just been confirmed as permanent dean of the medical school and he is getting busy on these questions. In fact, I was talking to Avram Goldstein who heads the department of pharmacology just a day or two ago about the desirable attributes for the new head of the psychiatry department there, and I am sure that he represents the feeling of a number of us that modern biochemical and genetic approaches should be strongly represented in the department. You could help a great deal by giving me your own informed suggestions for prospective candidates for this particular position and while you're at it I think it would do no harm if I could have a resumé from both Marge and yourself to keep in the file for fast action if this should be desirable.

I am rather hoping myself that clinical genetics will not be a primary responsibility of the Genetics Department at Stanford but that there should rather be developed a strong program or programs in this area in several other departments, for example, psychiatry, pediatrics, and medicine. The outlet of many people on the present staff is encouraging to this end. However, as I am not on the campus and will not be for a good many months, I am not much more than an interested on-looker at the present time.

Did you describe your own ambitions are lesser? I should think that "the genetics of the neurologic and psychologic components of human polymorphism and how they interact continuously with the environment to produce the adult personality" is hardly a limited objective and if I were in your shoes I would be quite content with just the gravy of "the etiology of neurosis and psychosis".

If you wanted to make a bigger thing of this and would let me have in an outline what you really think a department of psychaitry ought to consist of with some tangible suggestions of names and histories, this might turn out to be a helpful document at some time.

Anyhow I am just delighted that you were able to get something of our symposium and thank you for saying so.

We are, of course, looking forward to the move and in many ways wish it were possible for us to be there already.

I almost discarded the new address you mentioned, which was only on the envelope and you never can tell when we just might drop in.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/jp