

The Lister Institute,  
Chelsea Bridge Road,  
London, S.W.1.

29th. May 1957.

Professor J. Lederberg, M.G.S.,  
Genetics Building,  
University of Wisconsin,  
Madison, 6,  
Wis., U.S.A.

Dear Josh,

I am very happy to accept your invitation to contribute to the Symposium on Genetics in Medical Research\* at Madison in April 1958. I apologise for my inordinate delay in letting you have a definite answer; it was caused by some uncertainties (of a personal kind) about my plans.\*

The subject you propose that I should discuss is a large one, and I think the difficulty will be to decide what to put in that will be both comprehensible and instructive to your medical educators, etc. and yet not too dull for the more initiated. I have not followed recent work on genetics of animal viruses (largely because of the difficulty of judging the validity of inferences when one has no personal experience with the techniques); in consequence I do not feel myself properly qualified to review this part of the subject, and would prefer not to deal with it if it can be covered by someone else, or to deal with it summarily, if it falls to me (unless you would prefer to get someone in a better position than me to cover both the bacterial and viral fields; if you did wish to I should of course quite understand your position). I shall, however, continue to brood upon what would be a suitable presentation, and if you really want me to have a go, despite my limitations, I might perhaps prepare a skeleton and send it to you to see if it seemed the kind of approach which would be suitable.

From the personal point of view, I should of course greatly enjoy re-visiting the U.S. and Madison in particular, with the aid of the generous travel allowance from the Symposium.

Yours sincerely,

\* i.e. at first I was looking into the question of whether it would be possible, next year or later, to take some months off for visit to U.S. with Jane & Kate (if I could find support); but don't think that is practicable for 1958: and in next few weeks Jane has been feeling not been very fit, which is very worrying. But she has now been investigated and it seems that the trouble probably just results from worrying too much over Kate, who has been giving us trouble in the feeding line; and I hope as the infant gets a bit bigger Jane will feel better. We are thinking of getting help to look after baby, & let Jane do a job again. I don't mean to put all this in

B. Stocker.

but just to indicate that my  
hesitation was not due to any  
lack of enthusiasm for the  
idea of trip & contributing  
to your sympos.

How is the new Dept going?  
I hope <sup>my word</sup> Esther has her work  
from here. Give her my love,  
and Jane's.

Yrs Sinc  
Bruce

(Have you had time to read  
through Chris's thesis?)