

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY
School of Medicine

DAvenport 1-1200

December 19, 1962

Dr. George Wald
The Biological Laboratories
Harvard University
16 Divinity Avenue
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Wald:

Josh Lederberg showed me your letter of inquiry about your interest in getting a bright young man for your department. He didn't have anyone to suggest, but he knew that I had two people finishing up this coming summer.

One of them has already accepted a position but you might be interested in the other. His name is William B. Wood, Jr. and he is, in fact, a chemistry graduate of Harvard College. He will be getting his degree this summer and has already made arrangements for a post-doctoral year in Geneva with Arber in Kellenberger's laboratory. He would, however, be interested in settling on something suitable before he goes abroad.

Bill came to us in 1959 and chose to work with me on some aspects of our studies on protein synthesis. The first part of his work is summarized in the enclosed reprint. He has continued these studies with a view to defining the nature of the interaction between the ribosome and the RNA made by the RNA polymerase. In particular, he has been trying to find out why RNA made of single-stranded DNA is ineffective in promoting protein synthesis while RNA made with native double-stranded DNA as primer is active. He has turned up some rather interesting findings and I think by the time he leaves here he will have made a valuable contribution to the field. Jim Watson is familiar with his work and has met him, so perhaps he might offer an opinion. Also, Dr. Edsall met him on a recent visit here and he too might be able to provide an opinion.

When Bill came here he was highly recommended by various people at Harvard and from our experience I would make the recommendation far stronger. I would rate him as one of the best graduate students I have seen and I have no doubt that others in our department would feel the same way. He is extremely well-poised, mature, sensitive, cooperative and highly intelligent. He is very well-liked by the other students and does an extremely effective job in teaching and in seminars. I feel quite safe in predicting a very bright future for him.

If you are at all interested in pursuing this you could contact Arthur Kornberg or Mel Cohn (now at the Pasteur Institute) for their opinions about Wood.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Lerg

PB:cm

cc: Dr. Joshua Lederberg