



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305 • (415) 321-1200

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

SEP 29 1970
OCT 1 1970

Dear Al:

I am glad to know you are doing a book on lambda.

All we know about K-12 eohistory is in the enclosures.

People have short memories. I would not waste anybody's time or emotion by taking the initiative in raising historical questions; but if you are making the definitive historical record, I hope you will have the information at least not to embed in concrete some of the retrospective glosses over the early controversies concerning lambda, F and so forth. I have in mind particularly the critical skepticism that greeted the first inferences published by Esther and myself concerning the chromosomal localization of the prophage -- and how recurrently it was imputed that lambda and F were mixed up with one another. In our view, the segregation of pro-lambda, linked to Gal, from heterozygotes, was the decisive verification of the inference from our first crosses. (We did miss the phenomenon of zygotic induction, which was not prominent with our strains under our crossing conditions; but this in fact did not disturb the argument from the crosses.)

I am not suggesting that you take much time or effort to go into this in your book; but if you do, I hope you will get in the whole story, which is a confusing one.

Sincerely,

J. Kennedy

Hereshov

Enc: 47 916
"Genetics in the 20th Century"