



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

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Cell Fusion

December 14, 1971

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

Professor Henry Harris
Sir William Dunn School of Pathology
University of Oxford
South Parks Road
Oxford OX1 3RE ENGLAND

Dear Professor Harris,

I was most interested to receive your letter of November 10th and am very much stimulated by your suggestions of further studies on the identification of neoplastic markers. If these can be tested in conventionally heterozygous concentrations in diploid cells it would indeed dispell the obscurity that I perhaps unfairly laid on the subject in my popular article. In my reading of the literature up to past January I had found it difficult to distinguish between effects of dominants and complementation on the one hand, and a more generalized chromosome unbalance on the other. As you summarize very succinctly in your Croonian Lecture, the neoplastic state is highly adapted and therefore could be disrupted by relatively nonspecific disturbances of gene dosage as well as by specific suppression. I was merely trying to lean over backwards not to accept too enthusiastically the most desirable situation from the standpoint of further genetic analysis and possibly of therapeutic application! And I guess I could have had in mind effects like 21-trisomy which ought not to be used as an argument for specific suppression of intellectual development. In any rate, believe me my fault lay, if anything, in ~~ex~~cess of caution rather than in an unwillingness to be convinced.

This letter is, however, really a request for a favor, namely that you not be offended at what may be a presumptuous suggestion. I have been asked by some of my local colleagues to chair a session on some fundamental advances in cell biology for the benefit of a meeting of the Society for Gynecological Investigation in San Francisco on March 23rd. I could think of no one whom I would prefer to bring to such a meeting as much as for my own as for the audience's benefit than yourself. Unfortunately, I have a budget of just \$1,000. I realize that this honorarium will not do much more than cover your travel expense and would in no case be commensurate with a proper recognition of what you have to offer. Let me, nevertheless, try it out on you in the hope that it may still strike your fancy or that it may happily coincide with other plans that you might possibly have. The group consists of gynecologists who are for the most part actively engaged in research, but few of them at the basic level reflected in your own work; they would, I am sure, bring a very high level of interest and would come away with great profit from your presentation which I would tentatively suggest center on the utility of cell fusion for the study of gene expression and of neoplasia.

HARRIS, Henry

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Professor Henry Harris

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If you can accept this invitation it would be my part to introduce you and then take some time as an active moderator in some informal discussion following your presentation. The program is scheduled for San Francisco the morning of Thursday March 23. We might also try to induce you to speak at Stanford if this can be conveniently arranged and for which I am sure I can dredge up some additional but modest compensation.

I hope you can find it possible to accept this invitation, but if not, I would appreciate the favor of an early reply, so that I can make a less ambitious effort elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr