

MAY 23 1973

Princeton University

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMICAL SCIENCES
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Dear Josh:

Nice to hear from you, and I'm much interested in righting some of the 'wrongs' involved in the rewriting of genetical history. I fully agree that geneticists at Columbia, from the ~~day~~ start of my student days there, were not only open-minded, but appropriately excited about transformation and its implications. The problem was to find an experimental system which would tie the bacterial results to classical genetics - at least that was my understanding.

More specifically, I arrived a bit too late to be of direct help to you. Harriett had already left, and I hardly knew her. Have you written to Salome Waelsch, now at Albert Einstein Medical School? She was a very close friend of Harriett's in those days, and so was David Perkins. I came to Columbia in the fall of 1945, and by that time, Rhoades was ~~teaching~~ including Avery's work in his classical cytogenetics course. I could dig up my notes on that, if you wish, but perhaps Marcus could tell you directly when he started teaching the stuff, and how he felt about it. Barbara McClintock is another possible contact, since she was on the Columbia staff in some sort of adjunct capacity. And LCDunn was Harriett's official advisor.

My present situation: I'm on sabbatical at the Imperial Cancer Research Lab in London for the year, trying to get mitochondrial (and other) cytoplasmic mutations in animal cells. Am very excited and hopeful about doing cytoplasmic genetics with animal cells in culture, while continuing parallel experiments with Chlamydomonas. ~~I~~ Am in the US at the moment to visit my lab, go to a CSH meeting on animal cells and marry Arthur Pardee (thus the Princeton letterhead). Am very happy, working very hard, and feeling great. Would love to see you any time anywhere. If I can be of help on this or any other of your marvelous projects, let me know.

With best regards,



Ruth Sager
Professor of Biological Sciences
at Hunter College

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