

February 14, 1952

Dr. W. D. McElroy
McCollum-Pratt Institute
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore 18, Maryland

Dear Bill: McElroy:

I have your letter of the 12th. I do think now that we might have some useful comment on the subject of transformations. There has been a good deal of excellent work in this field, but mostly by chemists who have tended to de-emphasize the biological implications, especially with respect to the "morphology" of the active units. Unfortunately, I am still unable to attend the symposium in person, but would like to accept your suggestion of a written comment.

May I make a possible counter-suggestion? Mr. Norton Zinder has been directly responsible for our work on *Salmonella* transductions, and has built his thesis around it. He is the first author of a detailed ms. on the work that is about ready for publication. Would you consider transferring your invitation from me to him? By the time of the symposium, he will have qualified for his Ph.D.; in fact, his attendance would provide a good (and wished-for) reason to excuse him and me from the formal academic ceremonies at commencement. If the substitution of relatively less mature workers is against your policies, however, please do not hesitate to negate this suggestion. In any event, the commentary will appear under our joint authorship. We are both well acquainted with Hetchkiss and will communicate with him. Meanwhile can you send us instructions as to deadlines and format of contributions?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg