

June 21, 1946.

Dr. A. E. Sevringhaus,
College of Physicians and Surgeons,
Columbia University,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Sevringhaus:

In connection with our conversation of the 19th last, please transmit the following petition to the Medical Faculty for tentative action:

It is requested that I be granted leave of absence from the Third Year until the beginning of the academic year 1947-48. This request is made because of the development in the course of my elective work here of some extremely pertinent findings in bacterial genetics- viz. compelling evidence not as yet conclusive for the existence of a primitive sexuality in bacteria (*E. coli*) as demonstrated by the exhibition of genetic recombinations of biochemical characters in this organism. The importance of this concept in considerations related to epidemiology, chemotherapy, and the study of gene action and growth in general, ^{is} ~~xxx~~ such that I could hardly allow myself to interrupt its development and pursuit. It is not likely that I could polish up this work in suitable form by next September; therefore I request this year's leave to have time to do so.

I need hardly indicate that it would be highly desirable to have the information mentioned above in confidential status for the time being.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg.

*reprinted as
P.S.
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was
taken*