

April 28, 1952

Dr. P. R. Edwards
Communicable Disease Center
Public Health Service; Box 185
Chamblee, Georgia

Dear Dr. Edwards:

I am writing to ask your reaction to the possibility of my visiting your laboratory for a few weeks early next year.

In our work on Salmonella transduction, the limitations of our resources and experience are becoming very apparent. This is especially true of our projected work on the biological synthesis of named and new serotypes by means of transductive exchange of serological factors between various types. The "hybrid" IX, XII, i;— served as an illustrative example, but the possibilities should be by no means so limited. There is obviously only one place in the U.S. where such work can be done on the scale merited by its importance, and this is your laboratory. The technical requirements for glassware, equipment, and so on would be very modest. The important thing would be convenient access to appropriate cultures and diagnostic reagents, and to your experience and insight into them.

I would not suggest settling any arrangements now. My academic commitments, however, would leave next February as the only convenient open time. If my proposal merits further discussion, in your opinion, I would arrange to leave that month unobligated. I anticipate no difficulty in making my own financial arrangements for my wife (who is a research associate with me) and myself. As a good deal of the preliminary work has been and will have been done here, even the short time of a month's visit should be fairly productive.

I had thought previously that Mr. Zinder might make such a proposal. He has however accepted another appointment where he will certainly continue to explore various phases of this research.

In hopes there will be no serious impediment to my proposal,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics

P.S. Thank you for the last batch of cultures (your letter of 3/27) if not previously acknowledged. We have received Boulgakov's flagellar phage and can probably select for O-variants in certain types with it. JL