

September 18, 1958

Dr. R. R. Race  
Lister Institute  
Chelsea Bridge Road  
London S.W.1, England

Dear Rob and Ruth:

I was delighted to have run into you at London although I'm sorry not to have had a chance to talk to you further. Did you enjoy your trip to Rome?

I am writing mainly to ask whether you have had any more considered thoughts about whom we might best approach for the vacant position at Stanford. As you know we would like to develop on a broad front to complement my own interests in microbial genetics with an active research program in mammalian and human material. It will be difficult, for some time to come, to get very far away from blood groups as the most constructive aspect of experimental research in human genetics. We have visited Stanford again since seeing you and the prospects there are very attractive indeed for its development as an exciting center of research in physiological genetics. As you probably know, Arthur Kornberg is moving his department from Washington University, St. Louis, to be the Department of Biochemistry at Stanford and we will be housed just next door to him. In addition, there is a very active program in Neurospora research with Perkins and Yanofsky in the Biology Department.

I thought I detected almost a gleam in your own expressions when I brought up the question. Otherwise I would have hesitated to bring it up but is it possible that you might give some thought to such a situation? I certainly would not want to put in out of question that a post suitable to your circumstances and reputation might be developed if you had a serious inclination. In any case I look forward to hearing your good advice.

With all best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Medical Genetics