

December 4, 1952

Dr. Albert E. Waugh, Provost
The University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Waugh:

In answer to your request of November 25th, I am glad to give you a statement concerning Dr. Joshua S. Lederberg.

Dr. Lederberg got his degree with me at Yale in 1947. At that time he was considering going into medical research. His abilities in pure science were so evident that we persuaded him to continue in this area. His promise as a graduate student has been amply substantiated by the brilliance and fundamental importance of his contributions since that time. I would consider him one of the foremost geneticists in the country, if not in the world. He has a breadth of knowledge, an experimental sense of feasibility, and a research drive which are indeed outstanding. He is a good teacher and is capable of arousing considerable enthusiasm in his students. I can recommend him for any position you have in mind most enthusiastically and unreservedly.

Personally Lederberg has developed exceedingly well and with maturity has come a tolerance for less gifted individuals and an increased thoughtfulness for others, which he lacked to some extent during his graduate work. I feel sure that he would fit very congenially into almost any environment and group.

Professionally Lederberg has done more than almost any other individual in opening up and developing the new field of comparative biology of sex, with particular reference to microorganisms. I feel assured that his future contributions both to this area and to the more general aspects of experimental genetics will be as significant as those he has already made.

I would like also to take this opportunity of suggesting another man for your consideration. Dr. Raymond W. Barratt got his Ph. D. degree with me at Yale about the same time as Dr. Lederberg and has been with me in a research associateship at Stanford for the last three years. He has had a somewhat wider biological background in plant sciences and biochemistry than Lederberg and is primarily interested in the genetics of microorganisms with his main work dealing with *Neurospora* over the past six or more years. During much of this time he has been my right hand man, taking a considerable amount of the responsibilities of our research group and graduate teaching. I am mentioning him as a possibility because I consider him a very promising research man who has amply proven his productivity and ability in this area of genetics.

Sincerely yours,

E. L. Tatum

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