

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

January 16, 1952

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I've accepted the responsibility of organizing and convening a symposium on Physiology and Genetics of Microorganisms, sponsored by the Physiology Section of the Society of American Bacteriologists, and scheduled as a part of the annual meetings of the Society to be held in Boston the week of April 27 - May 1.

I would like to have the session organized as a round-table, and to run the discussions in as informal manner as possible. In a preliminary way, it would perhaps seem best if the program were directed primarily to a general audience, rather than to the specialists. The proposed general topic, "Physiology and Genetics of Microorganisms" might be divided into the following 4 areas:

1. Physiological characters concerned.
2. Population variation.
3. Individual variation (in terms of mechanism of heredity: gene mutation, recombination, transformation, extranuclear inheritance).
4. Mechanism of genic control of phenotype, (gene-enzyme relation; adaptive enzyme synthesis, etc.).

In order to cover this somewhat ambitious program in the two hours available, and still permit discussion, I had thought we might have each area outlined briefly by one speaker (as underlined below) giving their evaluation of the present general concepts, with others, especially but not exclusively those indicated, contributing during the following discussion.

1. Tatum.
2. Ryan, Novick.
3. Lederberg, Spiegelman, Hotchkiss, Delamater.
4. Bonner, Spiegelman.

I hope very much that you will be able to take part in this symposium and would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible, so that we can proceed to make further, more detailed plans. Your comments and suggestions will, of course, be needed.

As you see, I am counting on you to introduce topic 3, with primary emphasis on recombination perhaps. In addition everyone would be, I hope, given time to contribute to the final discussion.

I hope the culture you requested arrived in good shape and with the expected behavior. I will be looking forward to seeing you in Madison around the middle of March when we can discuss some of the questions you raised in your letter, as well

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as your ideas on this symposium. Incidentally, Zinder's work should of course be included in this symposium.

With best regards to you and Esther,

Yours,

Ed

ELT:gz

P.S.

Just met Melara, who was
down from Fullman for a day
Looks like a good chap.