January 4, 1957

Dr. Norman Topping
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia 4, Pa.

Dear Dr. Topping:

Your note of December 20 was on my desk when I returned from a recent trip. Your persistent interest in me is most flattering, the more so because of my own not very gracious stand. I am really very sorry that this opportunity is coupled with an urban setting that, for the present, happens to be rather unattractive for my wife and myself.

I do share your enthusiasm for the Wistar development. During his visit, Hilary and we got to know one another even better, and I am sure you could not have found a better director. The other people he has tentatively lined up offer hopeful prospects for an exciting group, and I am sure there will be cause to envy that association.

If it were possible, I would be glad to visit Philadelphia even for a hypothetical discussion, but I find myself rather pressed now and for the next several months by the weight of other duties and deadlines. Should a more congenial occasion arise for such a visit, I will let you know.

With best wishes,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics