

March 28, 1962

Dr. Katherine Wilson
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Kay:

Enclosed herewith I am sending advance copies of our intended applications for routine extension of our grant C 4496 (C4), previously committed support, and the further renewal of this grant for research on the Genetics of Bacteria on form PHS-398. I realize that I am sending this material in rather early for one, and perhaps too late to be immediately useful for the other. However, I am leaving next Friday for a six weeks lecture tour in Japan (the first time we have been there) and I thought we ought to try to clean this up before then. You should be receiving the properly endorsed applications in a short time. If there are any questions that ought to be taken care of before May 20, would you please direct them, during my absence, to Dr. Elliott Levinthal here and he will either respond to them himself or get in touch with me about it.

You may have heard about our recent grant from the Kennedy Foundation. Some additional information about that is enclosed. The funds are primarily intended for construction of a new laboratory in which, finally, the genetics department can pull together its facilities. There is some additional program money that is intended, for example, to give a little more scientific impetus to collaborative work with such departments as Obstetrics and Pediatrics. In fact, the Herzenbergs here have uncovered a very interesting model system for the development maternal antifetal immunity in the mouse which has provoked some of the people in obstetrics to undertake a more far reaching experimental study of this as a model for RH disease and other immunological congenital defects.

We were very pleased to have succeeded in demonstrating to the Kennedy family, and Mr. and Mrs. Shriver in particular, the importance of supporting basic research in molecular biology as the underpinning of mental retardation. We did make a specific commitment to add a program of work in chemical neurobiology as a new activity within the department in the Kennedy Laboratories. Fortunately, I have just been able to recruit a splendid candidate, Dr. Eric Shooter, to take charge of this program, and I am looking forward to taking advantage of his perceptive and constructive experience in the chemistry of hemoglobin as an asset not only to the neurobiology but to the

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other molecular biology in the department. This has been a rugged six months for me, Kay, and getting this Kennedy program under way has, together with other commitments in Washington, made a serious dent in my personal participation in the lab. Nobody could regret this more than I do myself and I have a serious intention and expectation of reversing this senile process upon returning from Japan. The main organizational problems have now been taken care of and there have been many exciting things going on in our lab that I don't want to be detached from.

I was especially sorry that Lou Baron was out here during the very worst of my own involvements, and I'm afraid I did not get to see nearly as much of him as I would have liked and as I owed to him. He also had some disappointments in his research program, but this is always a risk on a short term visit. I was really sorry that he felt he had to go back to his own lab on account of some local problems somewhat prematurely, but, of course, could understand his impulse.

With cordial regards,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics