

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Madison 6

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS

January 9, 1950

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Genetics Department

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

At the time you received the recent offer to join the Institute of Radiobiology and Biophysics at the University of Chicago the College Administration had under consideration certain space reallocations which, if agreed upon by those immediately concerned and given University approval, promise to improve significantly working conditions in the Department of Genetics. Since the laboratory quarters now available to you, more than anything else, limit your present opportunity here, the inadequacy of these was emphasized particularly in conveying to Dean Froker the unanimous recommendation of your Departmental colleagues that the University of Wisconsin make every effort to retain you on its staff.

I can assure you of Dean Froker's earnest desire to cooperate with the Department in working out its particular space problems and thus to meet your more pressing needs. The additional room which it is hoped will be assigned to Genetics, however, is involved in a pattern of shifts affecting other departments also. The Administration, therefore, cannot proceed to a decision based upon our needs alone. Furthermore, final decision on the matter rests outside the College of Agriculture. It is with the thought, however, that you would like to know the specific proposals which we have made to Dean Froker and the action he proposes to take upon them that I am writing you this letter.

It is Dean Froker's hope that upon completion of the new Dairy Industry Building, Veterinary Science will be enabled to vacate the Genetics Building and that their quarters will then be assigned to us. This would add about one-third to our floor space and should provide substantial relief from the present overcrowding in your laboratory and elsewhere in the Department. The plans for reallocation now under consideration by the College Administration give effect to our request for this space.

Dean Froker has expressed his willingness to seek University approval for mechanical installations which will improve summer working conditions on the top floor of the Genetics Building. Cost estimates are now being prepared by the Service Department on (1) a power ventilating system to serve the whole floor, (2) means of abating the dust nuisance in the building and (3) mechanical cooling of the microbial genetics laboratory. The proposal is that the ventilating equipment be installed when Veterinary Science moves out but that action be sought at once on the artificial cooling unit. We have stressed with Dean Froker the fact that the kind of work in which you are engaged cannot be done efficiently in your laboratory in the summer without this kind of equipment.

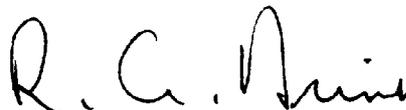
May I add a brief statement concerning your prospects for advancement in salary and rank. It is a source of gratification that two years ago and again last year the Administration approved the Department's recommendation that you be given substantial salary increases. I can merely express my confidence that your colleagues in the Department will again give me their fullest support in seeking the further advancement which your services to the University of Wisconsin merit.

Dean Froker tells me that on informing President Fred of your opportunity to go to Chicago, he was assured of the President's interest and cooperation in improving your opportunity here. The space problem in the Genetics Department and the specific needs with reference to the top floor were discussed. I am confident that when the plans are completed and cost estimates are available there will be sympathetic consideration of our needs by the President.

Our efforts to enlarge your opportunity at Wisconsin have been met on every side by a cooperative attitude and a desire to help in meeting the existing needs for better physical facilities as quickly and completely as is feasible. Needless to say this response bespeaks an earnest desire all around that you remain at Wisconsin.

Dean Froker asked me to inform you that he would be glad to confer with you personally should you desire to consider any of these matters further with him.

Sincerely yours,



R. A. Brink
Professor of Genetics

/s

cc R. K. Froker