

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
School of Medicine

January 15, 1961 avenport 1-1200
Cables STANMED

Dr. Frank W. Putnam, Secretary
Department of Biochemistry
University of Florida College of Medicine
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Frank:

I am sending this letter of recommendation in support of the nomination for membership in the American Society of Biological Chemists of our colleague, Dr. Carl Djerassi of the Department of Chemistry here. He is already quite well known in chemistry and in any case, the record on the nomination and the accompanying materials should speak for themselves. Certainly Carl Djerassi is one of the most genius and productive organic chemists in this country if not in the world. He has always been deeply interested in the chemistry of natural products, although mainly from the standpoint of the determination of structure and methods of artificial synthesis. However, although this does not show to as large an extent in his publications, he is also personally very deeply interested in the biochemical synthesis and functions of these compounds, especially, of course, the steroids. In connection with his continuing role in the basic research program of the Syntex Corporation, he is also establishing a definite interest in nucleic acids and I would certainly want to encourage every measure, including his acceptance for membership in the Society, that would so encourage a biochemical orientation. For these reasons too, I hope you will find it possible to stretch a point and accept the slightly tardy nomination with apologies for the inconvenience it might cause you.

In sum, I believe that Carl Djerassi's nomination to the Society would be a point of great credit to it and of definite benefit to his professional orientation and to the progress of biochemistry.

With best regards,

Cordlelly,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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