Microbial Genetics Laboratory

August 7, 1952

Professor D. L. Augustine
Department of Tropical Public Health
Harvard University
55 Shattuck Street
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Augustine:

I am writing at the urgent request of Dr. Shozo Inoki, of the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University, Japan, with respect to his application for admission to the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Inoki is known to me only through the exchange of a number of letters during the past year, and through some of his publications. He appears to have a very earnest and sincere desire to learn of the research advances and techniques in protozoal diseasesthat have been developed in this country.

He has published one piece of work, on the mechanism of serotypic transformations in trypanosomes, that promises to be an outstanding contribution in the field of microbial genetics and general protistology. His analysis of this problem was well reasoned and appeared to be most competent. If his experiments can be confirmed, and there is at least not internal evidence that they are likely not to be, they will substantiate an important, new mechanism of microbial variation. I am not qualified to judge his achievement in other aspects of public health or tropical medicine.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics