

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
NORTHERN UTILIZATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
1815 NORTH UNIVERSITY STREET
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
61604

APR 27 1965

April 26, 1965

AIRMAIL

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University School of
Medicine
Palo Alto, California

Dear Joshua:

The Illinois Society for Microbiology has selected me as the recipient of the Pasteur Award for 1965, and in my talk at the Sheraton-Blackstone on May 22, I plan to consider, among other things, some implications of the gibberellin development. In mulling over the problem, I have come across something that puzzles me, and I have been wondering if genetics could supply an answer. As you know, the fungus Gibberella fujikuroi produces the same gibberellin A₁ that plants do. Now the question is this: Did the fungus, in the course of its invasion of the rice plant, "learn" from the plant how to make the gibberellin? Is there any means known by which the necessary genetic information for the synthesis of a gibberellin could be transferred from the plant to the fungus? Or are the odds against this happening so great that we can only conclude that the ability to synthesize gibberellin evolved independently in the fungi and higher plants. Any thoughts you may have on this subject would be greatly appreciated.

In going through some old correspondence recently I came across the attached letters, which may be of interest to you.

I hope your current work is proving to be both interesting and fruitful.

Sincerely yours,

Frank H. Stodola

Frank H. Stodola
Principal Scientist, Pioneering
Laboratory for Microbiological
Chemistry

Enclosures:

Mr. Lederberg's letters of July 6, and December 20, 1942.
Dr. Stodola's letters of July 10, and December 23, 1942.