

December 13, 1957

Dr. Geoffrey H. Beale
Institute of Animal Genetics
University of Edinburgh
Scotland

Dear Geoffrey:

I am very pleased to learn of the progress that Bishop has been making in his research program with you. He will have to make up his own mind with regard to the postponement of his travel to Madison. However, he should give careful weight to the following considerations:

For my own part, the delay will not be a major inconvenience although I would, of course, prefer to adhere to an already agreed upon schedule. Further delay would simply prolong the time before Bishop could complete his doctoral training and embark on his own independent research activity. I am sorry to have had to impose the postponement that was already necessary on account of my trip to Australia. If his work with you is of sufficient importance, I would suggest that both of you give thought to the possibility of his completing these studies for his doctorate work at Edinburgh and postpone his travel to the United States until he could qualify as a post-doctoral fellow. Of course, this has so many ramifications that I could not comment on the over all wisdom of such a change of plans. On the other hand, next semester promises to be a most propitious time for Bishop to begin his work. My teaching schedule has been altered so that my course in bacterial genetics will be given during the spring and this would lay a useful ground work for Bishop's research immediately. In addition, in connection with a rather intensive program that we have been building up to, we are hoping to have Cavalli with us for much of the spring semester and this is an additional contact which could not but be most valuable for Bishop. Finally it might be necessary for me to make some rearrangements on a specific research problem which I have had in mind for Bishop and I have some extremely interesting possibilities on the books at the present time.

I have to add that we will be undertaking some changes in our laboratory quarters toward the end of 1958 or early 1959. The simplest course, for Bishop to postpone his visit until after these changes are made, would be too drastic a proposal, except in connection with my comment of the previous paragraph. Failing that, the next best thing would be for Bishop to be sufficiently well entrenched in his laboratory program that the distraction to be of the moving operation will not be fatal to Bishop's work. I would like to mention also that

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we are going to have a symposium here in Madison on the role of genetics in medical research, which Bishop would I think find quite instructive. (This affair I must add will be directed primarily at medical people).

As I will be planning myself to be away for at least a month next summer, to visit the International Microbiology Congress at Stockholm among other things, if Bishop must postpone, then I suggest he plan to arrive in mid-September.

If he wishes to adhere to our present plan, we will be happy to see him at any time, commencing immediately, prior to the beginning of the spring semester on February 1. We can arrange for his appointment to begin on the date of his arrival.

I know you will inform me as to his decision at the earliest convenience.

With all best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

JL/ew