5月12日 1962

Dear Jim -

(I have a few minutes to write while Esther gives her seminar on the deletions of Gal genes in λ transduction).

I am sorry that you & Motoo will not be able to visit Stanford soonest, but of course understand the underlying considerations. We do look forward to your own visit later on.

About ABCC, there are two fairly obvious premises —

(a). The further studies (± radiation effects) will be useful if and only if they are carefully controlled from a genetic standpoint

(b) This is only feasible with the active interest and participation of Japanese human geneticists

I took it on myself to bring this up rather frankly with Matsunaga, who ought to be a crucial person in any such consideration. As I suspected, he & all other Japanese geneticists have been actively disinterested in ABCC, a/c its connection with a futile radiation-effect study. But he could see the enormous utility of exploiting the survey effort for a more general study, e.g. of the same kinds of problems they are trying to analyze in Hokkaido.

There is only one thing to do — you informally, or NRC formally, to ask a small group of Japanese geneticists ± one or two Americans, perhaps better without, to make their own reconsideration to you of the usefulness of ABCC for human genetic work here. This conclusion should have some bearing on the general value of ABCC, but it would be politically unwise to stress this point as a basis of the ~~general~~ geneticists' deliberations.

Sincerely,

Joshua