Churchill College
Cambridge
2 June
'62

Dear Joch,

Work on the genetics of vaccinia virus has taken an interesting turn during my absence, & Mary McClain has got something that looks like a 'defective' — it doesn't produce infectious virus but recombines with high efficiency. Vaccinia looks the best animal virus for genetic/chemical study, at the moment, & I am anxious to exploit the situation. Unfortunately Bill Joklik has taken a position with Eagle, so that I have no biochemist now.

At a recent meeting in London Trautner from Cologne mentioned to me a Dr (?) Inman, from Adelaide; — a physical chemist working with Kornberg at the moment. I would like to recruit someone who is basically a physical chemist, interested in DNA, to look at the biochemical side of vaccinia multiplication & genetics; & I am writing to you to ask you whether you could discuss this possibility with Inman, & let me know what sort of a man he is; & if he is attracted to as 'biological' a field as animal virology. If he is interested I will come out to Stanford as I travel home in September — I expect to leave USA at San Francisco on October 1.

Hope that this isn't an imposition, but it would help me a lot
Best wishes to Esther & yourself

Frank Fenner.

Fenner