

August 15, 1959

Dr. Otto H. Frankel  
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Box 109, City  
Canberra, A.C.T.  
Australia

Dear Otto:

I have just had a note from Bob Wright which mentioned that he had been discussing with you the possibility of moving to Canberra. I gather this was not entirely settled at the time he wrote but I was so delighted to hear of this turn of events that I could not resist sending off this letter. I think it is true that Bob had had the typical Australian's myopic view of Canberra and that this rather than any well reasoned judgment had sent him to Melbourne when he first returned to Australia. I hope you can forgive him this lapse of judgment and I am sure myself that he would find your division a stimulating and exciting place to work. For everybody's benefit I hope this does work out now and it would compensate for my disappointment at his previous choice.

I don't know how well informed you may have been about the details of our move to Stanford. Suffice it to say that we are now pretty well settled here and find this campus very much to our liking. We are working very closely with the Biochemistry Department here, which under Kornberg is very sharply focused on questions of DNA chemistry and physiological genetics. Our principle research activity remains still on the recombination mechanisms of E. coli. However, Gus Nossal from the Hall Institute in Melbourne is arriving next week and we hope to renew our previous collaboration on problems of antibody formation during his tenure of a one or two year Postdoctoral Fellowship. The other work in the department, which is still being organized, will concentrate mainly on cellular genetics in tissue culture and in transplantation probably in inbred strains of mice. There should be some work on clinical genetics but probably this will mainly be in the clinical departments, for example Pediatrics and Medicine.

I imagine you must pass through San Francisco Airport some time or other on your occasional travels and when you do I hope you will take the opportunity of getting in touch with us. My telephone number is DAvenport 1-1200 extension 5053.

With best regards,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S. Are you acquainted with a publication called "Current Contents?" If not, I have to send you a copy. This consists simply of printed copies of the tables of contents of a wide range of current journals mainly in the fields of Biology, Biochemistry and Medicine. It comes out every week and is really quite up-to-date, in many cases the tables are available even before publication. I was quite concerned while I was in Australia with the delay your people have had in receiving scientific information from abroad and an item like this, especially if it could be made available by air mail, might be moderately useful.