

January 23, 1962

Professor J.B.S. Haldane  
c/o Journal of Genetics  
18/1 B.T. Road  
P.O. Belghoria, Dt. 24-Parganas  
West Bengal, India

Dear Professor Haldane:

Debi Burma has written to me indicating something of your plans to establish an institute of genetics. I am happy to hear about this development and trust it will mean an amplification of the opportunity for Indian scientists to pursue productive work in genetics.

May I recommend your consideration of Mr. A.T. Ganesan, who is now one of our outstanding graduate students and will be ready to get his Ph.D. degree this year. I am expecting that Ganesan will have an opportunity to revisit India this spring and this might afford him the opportunity of an interview with you. Unless an unusual opportunity should arise, I am hoping that he will return for an additional year's postdoctoral fellowship work in this department.

Ganesan is one of the most intelligent and enterprising graduate students I have ever had and I can recommend him to you without reservations of any kind. He has a remarkably wide background in botany and genetics including the cytogenetics of yeast and on this basis has built a remarkably imaginative and productive research program in microbial genetics. He is currently working, with outstanding success, on the fractionation of DNA molecules carrying different genetic specificities in *Bacillus subtilis*. He is an excellent experimentalist and has shown exemplary initiative in undertaking new methods as they are needed for the progress of his work. Except for my sentimental feelings about the need to develop Indian science, which he shares, I would be delighted to keep him here for as long as he considered it to his own advantage. To his other traits I have to add that he is one of the most affable and friendly members of the laboratory group, always going out of his way to see where he can be helpful to someone else. If you can use someone with the kind of training represented in this letter and as someone working in my laboratory, you could not conceivably do better than to offer him the most attractive position at your disposal.

With best wishes to Helen and yourself in which Esther joins me,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

D. P.  
BURMA