

May 24, 1962

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Dr. Osamu Hayashi  
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Room 6N-262, Building 10  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Osamu:

Thank you very much for your note of May 10. To answer your question, our first interest is in the function of DNA as genetic material and there is a very favorable system for doing this in *S. subtilis*. Subsequently it has come about that aromatic metabolism gives us some of the more interesting pathways under genetic control that we can look into with these genetic techniques. But I certainly agree with you that there ought to be more genetic work with *Pseudomonas* to take advantage of your own studies in the field. Have you been acquainted with Dr. Holloway's work with this organism? (see, for example, his paper in *J. Bacteriol.* 80: 362, 1960).

Pathways of aromatic metabolism have also become extremely important, as you well know, in connection with genetic etiology of mental retardation.

You mention some work by Sasaki - I wonder if you can save me some time by giving me the references.

I am sorry we can't look forward to seeing you here, but if I have any chance of it I certainly will try to drop by the NIH. I shall look forward to hearing further from you about Dr. Kiyota.

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

JL/jc

5/28 P.S. - To your 5/21. Yes, I would definitely like to hear more about the two people you mentioned. (Perhaps Kiyota is underrated in Japan, but I would much prefer some younger people anyhow. However he has been publishing fairly respectably.)

Hayashi

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R. Y. K. 5/28/62