

INST. FÖR TUMÖRBIOLOGI

KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET

STOCKHOLM 60

DEPT. OF TUMOR BIOLOGY

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Stockholm, September 26, 1960

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University  
Medical Center  
Palo Alto, Calif.  
USA

Dear Joshua:

Thank you for your letter of September 17. I was very glad to have your opinion on this review which is sweeping over a lot of miscellaneous material, including fields with which I am not really familiar, and making me feel rather insecure on several points. You are quite right about no efficient tests having been carried out with regard to a possible artificial sexual cycle using dominant selective markers and I suppose we shall have to give serious consideration to the possibility of using tolerant animals as selective hosts for such purposes.

As to the terms "epigenetic" and "genetic", I quite agree about the difficulties inherent in "epigenetic." In fact, I liked your terminology "nucleic" and "epinucleic" much better until I found the rather awful confusion in the recent paper of Rous (Cancer Research, 20: 709, 1960) where "nucleic" is taken as referring to the nucleus, rather than to nucleic acids. I do think that this confusion would be repeated many times among pathologists who are less apt to think of chemistry than of cell morphology. They are less familiar with the embryologic use of the term "epigenetic" and might be able to remember the distinction better if that term is used. I quite agree, however, that your term is essentially better. With your usual ingenuity of coining new words, could you not find a third one that would make us get rid of the confusion? I shall be only too delighted to adopt it! There is still plenty of time to change my manuscript.

It was wonderful to see you and Esther and I was very grateful to Hurricane Donna for giving me a chance to spend a little more time with you. I am including all personal data and biographies, as you requested.

Eva's diploma will follow shortly in certified trans<sup>lation</sup>plantation, as soon as it is ready. Please let us know if you need anything more.

Warmest greetings, also to Esther,

As ever,



George Klein

P.S. Could one not get away from the grammatically confusing word "nucleic" by working the words "template", "code", or something similar into the new term?

Dear Esther and Holm,

GK/AL

Thank you very much for the lentil things! We like them so much especially because both George and I can wear them at the same time when we want to be really lentil. It was good to hear about your warm George and it was good to get home George excited and full with working energy as he always feels after a talk with you.

As George just wrote it, my diploma will follow shortly in "transplantation"!

I am awfully thankful that Esther is going to take care of our housing problem! I am afraid we are going to be a nuisance to you with this big family now. The baby was just sitting in the basket yesterday! Peter is in a long way now from the "Peter and the wolf" and just now he listens to Aida and finds it very exciting.

Otherwise the nice small microorganisms gave us some trouble, because he has pertussis and I have to ~~stand~~ help her coughing every night.

Love Eva