

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY
THE HAMILTON KING MEEK MEMORIAL LABORATORY



375 SOUTH STREET,
LONDON, CANADA

April 20, 1959.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University,
Stanford, Calif.

Dear Josh:

We are just beginning to make general decisions and a few tentative plans towards the VIII International Congress of Microbiology. It seems to be years ahead but from the planning point of view the time is short enough. The question that is concerning me is the relative emphasis on various fields of microbiology. The principle of limitation by the arrangement of focal topics was started at Stockholm and it is more or less decided that it will be continued in the 1962 Congress. The main reason is that some limitations of numbers, particularly on this continent, is necessary in order to have a congress that is manageable.

There is no doubt that micribi^al genetics should have some part in any congress but it is more difficult to decide whether ~~the~~ ^a major programme (including symposia as well as paper sessions on genetics) should be organized. This is the more difficult when genetics holds an international congress on its own. This allows the specialist at least to have unequalled opportunities for discussion of his work. If that is so, perhaps the sort of genetics that we should consider in the microbiological congress is that which particularly impinges upon general ideas of microbiology and perhaps one should provide a symposium or a lecture, or both, to give more technical orientation.

Do you have any particular advice on this matter?

I hope that the process of settling is going well and that you both are happily ensconced in the new environment. With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

R.G.E. Murray, M.D.
Professor.

RGEM/fp.

MURRAY, R.G.E.