

October 23, 1958

Dr. Michael Potter
Leukemia-Studies Section
National Cancer Institute
Dept. of Health, Ed., and Welfare
Bethesda 14, Md.

Dear Dr. Potter:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 20th and especially for your prompt reply to my request.

I am moving out to Stanford University in February and am looking forward to Dr. Nossal's joining us for a substantial period starting next summer which will be a good occasion to renew the type of work we had started in Melbourne. I am sure that he will not miss an opportunity to pay you a visit after his arrival and I will be eager to avail myself of the same. I do not think we will be able to get very far on this problem before next summer but at that time I hope we do have a chance to confer with you. I will certainly look you up on my next visit to the Bethesda area but at present plan this may not be before next September. I suspect that Professor Kaplan will have a colony of the mice you have indicated for carrying the various tumors but I will take pains to check on this in good time.

Meanwhile I wonder if there would be some point in discussing ways of approaching the question you raised in your letter as to the identification of the myeloma protein as an anti-bacterial antibody. It is not entirely obvious how one might most efficiently go about this except to caution that a sample of the gut flora of the mouse be taken when new plasma cell neoplasms are discovered. However, as one sort of shotgun approach one might think of looking for a complement-fixing reaction between myeloma protein and the mixed flora obtained from other mice of the same strain. This would be one of these cases of matching a very low probability of success against a very worthwhile stake indeed.

Do you think there is any chance that the myeloma protein is an antibody against some of the animal's own antigens? Will it work in Coomb's tests?

If there is any chance of your being out in this part of the country before February, or in the vicinity of Stanford next spring, I hope you can visit us. I'm afraid I don't see much of a chance for adding any trips to my own schedule during this interval.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. J.', located at the bottom right of the page.