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DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY  
362 NOYES LABORATORY OF CHEMISTRY  
URBANA

September 24, 1952

Dr. J. Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

The primary purpose of this letter is to make a discreet inquiry concerning Treffers. It so happens that I am on one of the national science foundation panels and Treffers has a proposal for a grant to study mechanisms of microbial resistance to drugs and antibiotics. The difficulty that I have with the proposal is essentially that it is heavily genetic and he shows evidences in it of relatively poor understanding of genetic problems and apparently isn't getting any intelligent advice along these lines. Essentially what I would like to have from you is a frank appraisal of his work, part of which you are apparently familiar with since he mentions that you have confirmed his discovery of a mutable gene. By the way, he proposes to use this mutable gene to construct maps in *E. coli* by determining "the extent of the actions and the effective range on other alleles." Anything that you would care to say, of course, I will hold in strictest confidence, but your comments will help me in arriving at a reasonable decision. Personally, I am at the present moment not entirely sure that this group should be encouraged unless they get somebody to give them adequate advice on problems which they apparently don't understand. I should greatly appreciate hearing from you soon on this matter since I have to send off my written comments within the next week.

Sincerely yours,



S. Spiegelman

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