

July 26, 1976

Dr. Shen Shan-chiung  
Vice Chairman  
Revolutionary Committee  
Plant Physiology Institute  
Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Dear Dr. Shen,

In the light of recent developments on the uses of translated DNA sequences to modify the genetic character of microorganisms, the possibility of a role for RNA in genetic transformation has again acquired important practical significance. I believe that genetically modified microorganisms have only just begun to show their potential for important industrial, medical and agricultural uses.

In this connection I have long been interested to try to establish an opportunity to discuss the work that you published about 1961 on a role of RNA in bacterial transformation. If you still have an interest in that question and have had an opportunity to continue such investigations, I would be most grateful to hear from you and perhaps to offer us some advice about some further experiments in that direction that we would be eager to pursue in this laboratory. Conversely, I would of course be happy to reciprocate with word of our own research up to this point on DNA insertion mechanisms.

Yours cordially,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

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