



DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
THE CENTER FOR THE HEALTH SCIENCES
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

July 20, 1977

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I am sorry to have delayed so long answering your letter concerning biographical recollections of E. L. Tatum, but at least a part of the time I have been away.

I agree that 1940 was the critical year for *Neurospora* genetics, and I was at Stanford at the time. I do recall hearing about some of the developments in the form of special lectures by Tatum, and perhaps also by Beadle. Unfortunately, insofar as giving you information is concerned, I was at Stanford as a postdoctoral fellow, working in Dr. Douglas Whitaker's laboratory. Thus, although I attended special lectures in the department, I was not taking any formal course work. I have no recollection of a formal or informal graduate course on Comparative Biochemistry which might have been given by Tatum.

While I was at Stanford in 1940 there was a graduate student working in Dr. Whitaker's laboratory who quite probably was taking courses related to developmental and genetic topics. This was William E. Berg who has since gone on to become a Professor in the Zoology Department of the Univ. of California at Berkeley. He may be able to provide some real information that would be of use to you. I would suggest that you get in touch with him.

There is one minor problem in your chronology as I see it. As best as I can remember, I arrived on the Stanford campus sometime in the summer of 1940, and left in the summer of 1941 to go to Columbia. I do not think that Beadle was actually on the campus for very much of that time. My recollection was that his base then was really at Cal. Tech., although certainly he had begun his association with Tatum, and did visit Stanford from time to time, perhaps for more than casual stays. I suspect the association had begun earlier. I had been a graduate student at Cal. Tech. from 1936-38, when I received an M.S. degree there. I think I knew all of the geneticists there pretty well except Beadle who, I believe, was on leave much of the time, and at least partly at Stanford. He was only occasionally seen at Cal. Tech. I have joked about this in conversations, that I always seemed to be where Beadle was not. The result was that I never got to know Beadle very well when I was still at Cal. Tech., nor did I know him more than casually later at Stanford. Tatum, of course,

Dr. Joshua Lederberg

July 20, 1977

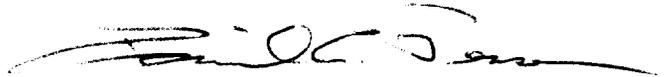
page 2

was a permanent resident of Stanford.

Incidentally, there are two emeritus professors still alive here at UCLA who in 1940 were on the faculty of the Physiology department at Stanford. I am thinking of Drs. John Field and Victor Hall. While I am not aware of either having any particular contact with the Biology department, or with Dr. Tatum, there is an off chance that they may be able to provide some useful information which you might be able to ascertain just by telephone calls.

I am sorry I cannot help more directly.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel C. Pease", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel C. Pease
Professor and Chairman

DCP:esw