

November 20, 1952

Dear Tracy:

My "formula" was intended only to convey my own relationship to the book, and not to serve as a prescribed conduct for anyone else. I do hope that the other commitments you mention will turn out to be help, rather than distractions, in the long run.

Frankly, I do not see why you could not say no to the genetics congress, if you felt like it, but I hope you do write that critical review. For my part, the antigen story has been fully covered at this level— were you asking for suggestions on other topics? I don't know of any place where a geneticist has systematically reviewed the protoplasmic continuity of other structures than nuclei and, to a lesser extent Lwoff's kinetosomes, from the point of view of their genetic autonomy. It would be all large order to take in regeneration as well as ordinary proliferation, but this is the kind of information that protozoa might be the best suited for. Another topic would be the dualism of micro- and macronucleus over a broader range than Paramecium, but I would not want to be pressed how this should be developed.

You may receive a request for a reference on me from the University of Connecticut. I shall be very much surprised if they can approach the position that Wisconsin has made for me here, but I was afraid to divert their overtures without looking more closely for fear of reinforcing the impression (that you have quoted to me) that I am absolutely immovable here. I do hope you don't find writing a letter too much of a bother.

As it happens, I was in Boston last weekend for another purpose, and was invited to spend some time at Cambridge with Wald, Thibaut, et al. I persistently avoided any references to my own situation vis a vis Harvard, but it is obvious that they are so confused and divided on their future development that nothing will be forthcoming in the visible future. I was disturbed to learn, as you probably know, that the LCD appointment fell through in the Pres.' office. I have made up my mind to ignore that situation as far as talking it over with anyone who has less than plenipotentiary powers. Your discussions with me on this subject have been kept, and will remain confidential.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg