

May 21, 1951.

Dr. T. M. Sonneborn,
Dept. Zoology,
Indiana University,
Bloomington, Indiana.

Dear Tracy:

I'm writing to ask you about Mr. Palmer Skaar, who should be completing his Ph. D. with you now. We have not heard a word from him since he first wrote in connection with his application for the NRC-Merck and PHS fellowships, but I assume that action on both of these is still pending.

Bob Irwin and I are very much interested in pursuing work on the immunogenetics of *E. coli*, and of *Salmonella typhimurium*, and there is now a wealth of material suitable for recombination analysis. We now have more than 20 crossable strains of *coli*, representing as many different somatic and probably flagellar antigens; the *Salmonella* situation is equally encouraging.

I was prepared to accept a fellowship board's evaluation if Skaar won one of these fellowships, but would like to prepare for the contingency of failure. It may be possible for us to scrape up the necessary funds for a project-research associateship, but before doing so, I would appreciate your judgment on Skaar's qualifications. We have no information of any kind concerning him. See you at CSH-

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg