

January 16, 1962

Dr. Kiyoshi Kurahashi
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Dear Kiyoshi:

Thank you very much for your letter. I was wonderful to hear from you.

Enclosed are reprints and two preprints of our recent work; one of which is in press in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the other in Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications. I am in the midst of writing a few more papers and I will send manuscripts when they are finished.

The work is pretty exciting at this stage. Currently we are trying to determine characteristics of RNA coding units, such as the coding ratio, degeneracy, specificity of coding units, the effect of secondary structure upon the activity of coding units, etc. However, there is so much to do that the work seems to crawl along at a snail's pace. Leon Heppel and Maxine have been doing some work with us and this has been a great help. One other thing that we are trying to do is to obtain an estimate of the universality of the code. It will be months though before we have really clean data concerning this question.

Gordon flew back from Paris last week for a few days and it was a lot of fun to see and talk to him. Both he and Millicent are enjoying Paris very much and he is very excited about the work that he is doing there. It was wonderful hearing about the gossip from Paris. Actually, Bruce and Giovanna came back from Paris several weeks ago and we heard quite a bit about current research going on at Pasteur from them. They both had a good time in Cambridge and in Paris.

Dr. Kiyoshi Kurahashi

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Mike Yarmolinsky is engaged to a Finnish girl - an artist whom he met this past summer when he was vacationing in Europe. They expect to be married this summer.

Let me know how things are going and give my best regards to your mother.

Sincerely yours,

Marshall W. Nirenberg

MWN:lh