

November 19, 1946

Dr. Seymour S. Cohen
Department of Pediatrics
Medical School
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Seymour:

This is strictly a call for any and all help that you can give us. We desperately need the following:

1. crystalline trypsin
2. pure ribonuclease
3. pure desoxynuclease
4. desoxynucleic acid

We have run some experiments, the results of which are not as yet ready for broadcast. Briefly, we have found that our active principle is inactivated by both desoxynuclease and ribonuclease. Now, the two enzyme preparations we have obtained are extremely good. We did not obtain enough of the ribonuclease to make more than two runs. You can well imagine the implications of this finding should it be possible to exhaustively confirm them.

I can well imagine the possibility that you may not have all of the things I ask for, but whatever you can send you know will be deeply appreciated, and if you can give me advice as to how to get any of the others, again you will receive our heartfelt thanks.

What is the best way to maintain the activity of both desoxynuclease and ribonuclease, and what is the simplest method of checking on the activities of the enzyme solutions we are using?

To change the subject, we obtained some 5-methyl tryptophane from Mr. Tainter. When are your results coming out on this material? Obviously, it is necessary for us to obtain information as to the concentration range, etc., before we embark on a test. Our major purpose, as you know, is to see whether it stops enzymatic adaptation. If it does, we will say hurray.

Give my best regards to your lovely wife and say hello to Michael for me. I should, in closing, like to note that Willard

still remembers and repeats some of the lectures you gave him on the cytogens, which, you can guess, is a little annoying at times. I am assuming you are the one who did it, and I think my assumption is correct. When I get to see Michael next summer, I will give him a few lectures also.

One further note of interest. There is going to be a symposium in Cold Spring Harbor on nucleic acid and nucleoproteins. Your name is on the list of participants which should make you very happy. I saw Demerec in Washington recently in which we discussed the nature of the program and the probable date, which will be early in June.

Cordially yours,

S. Spiegelman

ss/b