

777 Ash Street  
Denver 20, Colorado  
13 March 1959

Dr. John B. Storer  
Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial  
Bar Harbor, Maine

Dear Dr. Storer,

Could you give me some advice and help? Next year I shall have to know much more than I do now about mouse management and radiation. It happened like this:

Last Summer Leo Szilard was here in Colorado at the Boulder Biophysics meetings. Toward the end of the summer he had worked out his ideas on aging to the point at which he wanted to try them on someone and I was at hand. The ideas were developed further later in the Fall at Bethesda and have now appeared in the January Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. A reprint is enclosed.

Szilard has decided to get a group together to test some of the implications of his ideas, among other things, and I am to move to Bethesda in the Fall (NIMH-NINDB, Robert Livingston, director of intra-mural research) as "base party." As I have had no experience with mice, clearly I have a lot to learn. (I have been doing single cell tissue culture.) Szilard asked at Los Alamos and was told that you would know about the things I need to learn and had moved to Bar Harbor.

Before he got word to me, however, the February Radiation Research arrived and I found your paper. Obviously you and Szilard were going in the same direction. Clearly Szilard's  $f^*$  corresponds to your death point. I would expect that the rate of recovery from an acute irradiation would be determined by  $f$ . Differences in the genetic component of longevity, Szilard's  $r$ , might also produce heritable variation in the recovery rate from acute radiation, be the  $r$  "faults" spontaneous or produced by irradiation of the parental generations. My purpose here is not to attempt a complete correlation between your and Szilard's points of view, but merely to indicate that I think it must be done.

The day after I read your paper, a note from Szilard came suggesting that I write you about spending some time in Bar Harbor to learn about mice. He had not seen your ideas ~~xxx~~ (I am sending him a photostat) but I think it is already clear that it would be worth while to talk about experiments too.

What seems practical to you? Could an extended visit to Bar Harbor be worked out? From my point of view, August-September would be a good time to be in Maine, but obviously more depends on your convenience and plan than on mine.

Sincerely,

*N. C. Webb, Jr.*

N. C. Webb, Jr., M.D.

P.S. Could we have 3 reprints?  
N.C.W.

N. C. WEBB, JR., M. D.  
SETON HALL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
JERSEY CITY 4, NEW JERSEY

13 June 1961

Dear Leo:

Thanks for the Dolphins and for the clipping. Fortunately the Histo seems to be under control. Unfortunately Suzanne is now in the hospital for other reasons.

Court-Brown & Doll have submitted a paper to Nature which shows increasing aneuploidy in peripheral blood with age. The PNAS aging paper didn't provide for increases but was otherwise prophetic.

Please give my best to Trudy.

Sincerely,

*Cody*

Leo Szilard  
Hotel Dupont Plaza  
Washington 6, D.C.

1411 Pa

Dr. Conant Webb, Jr.  
Medical Center  
Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry  
Jersey City 4, New Jersey  
United States of America.

Geneva, 7th August, 1963

Dear Cody,

Your letter of July 3rd was forwarded to me to Geneva. I also received a letter from the Dean of the Medical Center of Indiana University, dated July 5th, which asked for information about you, and attached you will find a copy of my answer.

I refrained from writing to the Dean that I think you ought to have your head examined, if you accept the offer which he is contemplating making to you.

When I last saw you, you thought that you would not be able to leave the East Coast. If you now think you might be able to leave the East Coast, then I want to raise with you the following question:

Would you, in principle, be willing to join me at the Salk Institute at La Jolla, which will be ready for occupancy in the fall of next year?

I am not authorised to offer you a position and I may not know for a few more months what laboratory space and what size budget ~~wanted, if I were to move to La Jolla in the near future.~~ *you would have* At the moment I am merely exploring whether it would be possible for me to find collaborators who would make it worth my while to set up an ~~laboratory~~ *experimental operation.*

If you are interested "in principle", then we would have to examine one by one the following points:

(1) Would you find the work programme, which I am in the process of elaborating, sufficiently interesting to assume a large measure of

the responsibility of carrying it out? If you are interested "in principle", I shall send you a Memorandum which is in preparation and which describes the things which I think we might accomplish over a period of the next five years. It is conceivable that you would find this programme exciting and indeed, the first question is to find out whether you would or would not.

(2) I have had no trouble and no symptoms since February 1960, and I feel very well. Rightly or wrongly, I am basing my plans on the assumption that I may have a life expectation of perhaps five years. Before you could decide to join me at the Salk Institute, we would have to explore what assurances you would have to be able to carry through a major programme, until its successful completion, even if I should drop out - as of course I might do any time. For this reason you would want to get acquainted with the resident Fellows of the Institute, to have an extended conversation with Dr. Salk and to see how you respond to them and how they respond to you.

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If you will let me know that you are interested "in principle", I shall send you the Memorandum on the "five year programme", which I am in the process of writing, as soon as it is completed. If, after having received and digested it, you tell me you are interested, then we can arrange for taking the next step.

My own travel plans are uncertain. I might stay in Europe until early October, or I might return to America soon after August 20th. My suggestion would be that you write me c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan, World Health Organisation, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Sallard

cc. Dr. Jonas Salk