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Harvard University  
The Biological Laboratories  
16 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

May 19, 1959

Dear Szilard,

I was most pleased to receive your memo regarding Salk and a possible Cancer Institute. I hope very much that something of this sort can be brought off. I think, however, that its chance of success as a scientific institute will be higher if primary attention is directed toward the reproduction of animal viruses and those fields which bear directly on virology (e.g. biosynthesis of RNA, general nucleotide metabolism), rather than paying equal attention to other fields, such as tissue transplantations which while both biologically interesting and very pertinent to cancer, will probably not substantially help our understanding of the fundamental biochemical picture. Furthermore, other cancer institutes are much involved with these problems. On the other hand, it is obvious that we need a strong base in tissue culture.

I leave on this Friday for Paris and Brussels, returning in 3 - 4 weeks. If I can be of help in any direct way, I can fly down to Washington, etc.

/s/ Jim Watson



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Jim Watson



Washington, D. C.  
March 3, 1962

Professor James Watson  
Department of Biology  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Jim:

The attached letter is meant for you and those others whose names are listed in the memo "The Next Step". I should be very grateful to you for reading the attached letter and the enclosures, and for advising me as soon as possible whether you are willing to serve as an Associate.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Hotel Dupont Plaza  
Washington 6, D. C.  
Telephone: HUDson 3-6000

Enclosures

P.S. I am enclosing the revised and final version of my speech, which will be printed in the April issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

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