

COPY

25 November 1963

Dr. Jonas Salk
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies
Post Office Box 9499
San Diego 9
California
U.S.A.

Dear Jonas,

Jacques was here last week and we discussed the Fellows Meeting planned for next February. I hope to arrive in La Jolla about the middle of February. Jacques has altered the engagement he had, so that he could come a little earlier than he originally expected. Perhaps Benzer, Szilard and Weaver could be persuaded to arrive about, say 22nd February (or even earlier), so that we should all be together for at least a week.

Leslie Orgel has asked that he should be officially considered for a post at the Institute, as he has had other offers and must therefore make a decision early in March 1964. He is shortly going to M.I.T. for about 6 months, and it would be possible for him to visit La Jolla in February. I have suggested that perhaps the best time for him to come would be early in the week starting 24th February, so that all the Fellows could meet him. What do you feel about this?

I think the main things we should discuss during our time together are:

1. Which areas of research should the Institute try to make appointments in?
2. How shall we discover suitable people in these areas?

Dr. Jonas Salk
Page 2

25th November 1963

The two main fields which I feel to be important are Embryology and the Higher Nervous System. Embryology would include the classical parts of the subject and also tissue and organ culture, and control mechanisms in general.

It is clear that not one of the Fellows is especially well-informed about either of these fields, so I would suggest that the sensible thing is not to try to make appointments too soon but to ask various people to talk to us, so that we can find out what is going on.

I was at a loss as to whom to ask about Embryology but Jacques suggested Grobstein*, of Stanford. He says that Mel knows Grobstein and thinks well of him.

As to the Higher Nervous System I think we should certainly have Sperry to talk to us. In addition I should like to make a strong case for inviting David Hubel of the Harvard Medical School. You will find a very exciting article by him in the last number of Scientific American, based on the paper last year in the Physiological Journal by Hubel and Wiesel. We have all been very impressed by it here. Moreover I have made inquiries about him as a scientist and have had nothing but good opinions.

In short, then, I propose we ask Orgel, Grobstein, Sperry and Hubel to talk to us, if that can be arranged. Perhaps you could sound the other Fellows and see what they feel about this idea. I think we should keep the weekend starting 25th February clear of visitors, so that we can discuss things among ourselves and meet the Trustees.

It will really be rather exciting being all together and I'm greatly looking forward to it. Odile and I are dining with Bruno on 15th December so we can discuss the arrangements further then if necessary.

With all good wishes,

Yours ever,

F. H. C. Crick

cc: Brenowski
Monod

* I rang Renato, who is cool about Grobstein but couldn't think of anyone better.