

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS  
THE DIVISION OF THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

January 8, 1955

Professor Leo Szillard  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Mass.

Dear Dr. Szillard:

I would appreciate it very much, if I could see you on the occasion of my trip to the East to ask your advice in some matters connected with my impending re-location. I expect to be in New York approximately from January 25 till 29 . If you are not going to the Physical Society meeting in New York, I might be able to come to Boston to see you.

You will find enclosed a few reprints of some recent papers of mine, a list of publications and a curriculum vitae. I would appreciate it very much if you could recommend me, should you hear of an appropriate opening.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kindness,

I remain

Sincerely Yours,

*A. Kolin*

Alexander Kolin

King's Crown Hotel  
420 West 116th St  
New York 27, N. Y.  
January 19, 1955

Dr. Alexander Kolin  
Division of the Biological Sciences  
The University of Chicago  
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Kolin:

Many thanks for your letter of January 8th. I have forwarded the material which you sent me to Dr. Saul Cohen, Chairman of the School of Science at Brandeis University, in the assumption that there might be some opening there. I am not in very close touch with them this year but last year I visited them once a week.

I am, at present, staying in New York at the above address but I might have to go to some hospital for treatment for ten days or so and might be unavailable when you are in New York. Call me at the hotel at University 4-2700 when you are here and see if I have checked out. If I am checked-in but am out of the hotel, just leave a message where I can call you back.

W With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/nr

ROUGH DRAFT

Dr. Alexander Kolin  
Department of Biophysics  
Medical School  
University of California  
Los Angeles, California

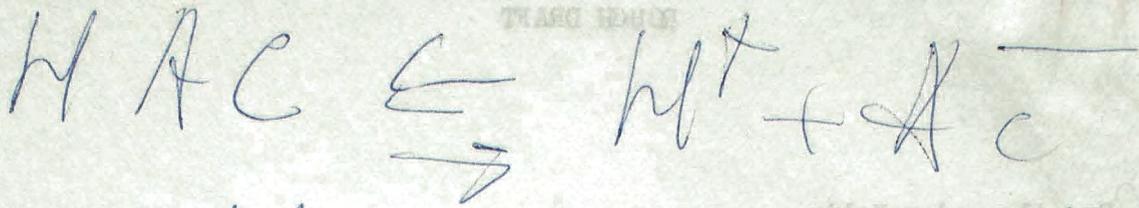
Dear Kolin:

I saw with mixed feelings your paper on the separation of substances which differ in their isoelectric point. In the past few years, I have been looking for someone to work ~~on~~ <sup>out some</sup> such ~~of~~ method with me. I talked to Leonard Lerman in Denver, to Maurey Fox in Chicago, and to Sol Cohen at Brandeis. I also asked you whether you would ~~undertake to do experiments~~ <sup>be interested</sup> ~~to demonstrate~~ <sup>in working on</sup> the separation of substances differing in their isoelectric point through electrophoresis while a PH gradient is maintained along the path of migration. You said that you ~~would not do this,~~ <sup>were interested</sup> and the next thing I heard was that you had written a paper on the subject. I am sure that had you not been under very severe stress--and I know, of course, that you were--you would have contacted me before <sup>even</sup> starting the experiments.

It is also true that ~~all I told you was the basic principle, and the particular implementation method~~ which you chose was not suggested by me <sup>and</sup> ~~I consider it~~ <sup>is</sup> a very neat piece of work.

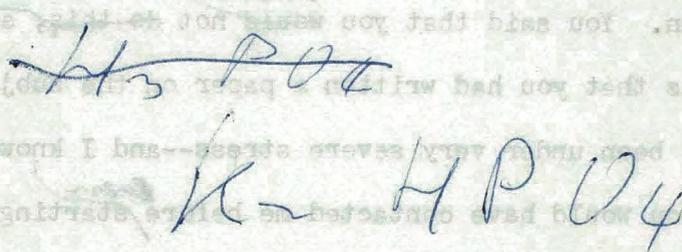
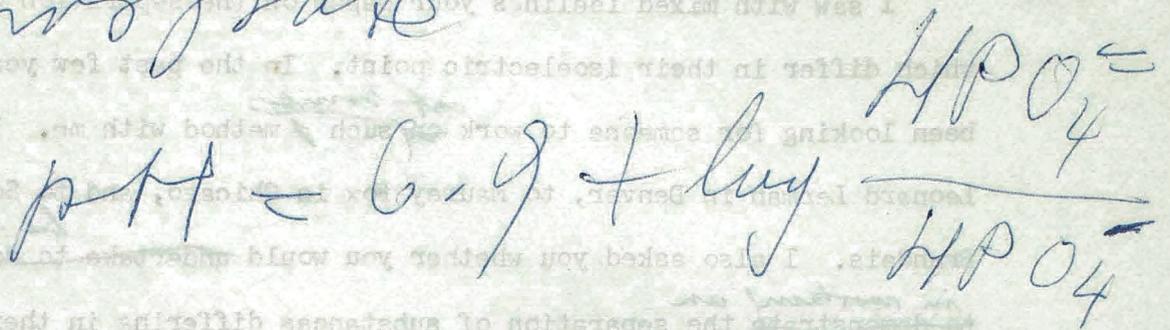
In spite of recognizing <sup>the</sup> ~~your~~ difficult position, <sup>you were in</sup> I must frankly confess that I feel ~~very~~ <sup>badly</sup> about the whole matter, perhaps more so than necessary.

Can you think of some way of correcting the situation? One way in which this ~~could~~ <sup>might</sup> be accomplished ~~would~~ <sup>might</sup> be for us to file a joint patent application both ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> the basic principle and on various implementations. Would you like to do this? It can be done only up to one year from the



$$pH = pK + \log \frac{[A^-]}{[HAC]}$$

Phosphate



Veronal

Dr. Robert L. Livingston  
 Dept. of Phys.  
 U.C.L.A.

date of your publication. Or have you some other alternative suggestion?

~~With best wishes, I am~~ *I hope all is well with you.*

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard  
1155 East 57th Street  
Chicago 37, illinois

LS:cf

Draft

H-31

December 5, 1955

1155 E. 57th Street  
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dr. Alexander Kolin  
Department of Biophysics  
Medical School  
University of California  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Kolin:

I hope you will understand that this letter is written in the spirit of friendship and I hope it will be less embarrassing for you to receive it than it is for me to write it. For some time in the past I was looking for someone to help me demonstrate that a separation of substances differing in their iso-electric ~~band~~<sup>point</sup> is feasible and can be made to work as a precision method. The overall idea was to maintain in a buffer a pH gradient and send a current through the buffer. You were one of those ~~to~~ whom I approached about this. The others were Leonard Lerman, Maurey Fox, and Saul Cohn. You did not think you would want to undertake this and I was therefore somewhat taken aback when Fox and Lerman told me about your paper. The particular implementation which you adopted was not suggested by me and it might prove to be better than several other ~~impossible~~ implementations.

I know, of course, that you were under severe stress in the past few years and this must be the explanation for your failing to remember our conversation which took place as we left together the Quadrant Club after lunch. In view of the circumstances, I ought not to feel badly about this matter, but the fact is, that I do. I had not given up the thought of arranging for some experiments to be done along these lines and, as a matter of fact, my ideas in this respect go, I believe, beyond what you have published so far.

If you feel you want to correct the situation, perhaps you would care to file a joint patent application covering the ~~basic~~<sup>basic</sup> principles and a number of different implementations. This could be done only up to one year from the date of your publication. If you would like to do this, I shall give some

Draft to Dr. Kolin

thought whether this can be <sup>best</sup> arranged. If you have any alternative suggestions  
~~how this can be best arranged~~, please do not hesitate to let me know. <sup>P</sup>I was  
very glad to hear that you found a satisfactory position and hope that all is  
well with you.

Sincerely yours,

Leo Szilard