

6200 Drexel Avenue

April 24, 1950

Dr. Bernard D. Davis
Tbc. Research Laboratory
411 East 69th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Davis:

Since I saw you we have tried to use an ornithine-less strain in the chemostat and it did back mutate on us as we feared it might. So if you are able to pick up a arginine-less mutant of it, please rush it out to us air mail special delivery. I expect to be back in New York a week from today and maybe we can get together with Witkin on that occasion. I talked to her over the telephone before I left.

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard

LS/sds

1155 East 57th Street
March 5, 1951

Dr. B. D. Davis
Tbc. Research Laboratory
411 East 69th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Davis:

This is just to let you know that to date
I have not heard from Sloan-Kettering and that I there-
fore have no set plans for going East at the present
time. With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE

Tuberculosis Research Laboratory,
411 East 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

March 7, 1951.

Dr. Leo Szilard,
The University of Chicago,
Institute of Radiobiology & Biophysics,
1155 East 57th Street,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

With regard to your tactful letter of March 5th, I might mention that I had a phone call last week from somebody *Dr. Phillips* at Sloan-Kettering about the question of their paying for your transportation to New York. It appears that they are a little reluctant to undertake this expense. I took the liberty of pointing out that on two recent trips it had not been possible to arrange a seminar for you at which Dr. Rhoads could be present, so it didn't seem unreasonable to me for them to consider, if they wanted to hear you, whether this wasn't a fair request. On the other hand, I stated that it was my understanding that your coming to New York would not necessarily be contingent on their paying for transportation. Dr. Phillips said that he would take it up again with Dr. Rhoads' ~~department~~, so you will probably hear from them shortly.

I hope you will be getting east within the next month or two, for I hear that Shedlovsky has some exciting stuff on proteins as proton conductors. I missed this seminar at the Institute on account of the flu, and would like to arrange for him to give it again for several of us. Assuming that you might be interested, I'll delay this arrangement until your plans are clearer.

The name of the gentleman who wrote us from the Scientific American way back in 1949 is John Pfeiffer. Meanwhile, we had a nice visit from Renato Dulbecco this week and discussed with him and Hotchkiss the possibility that their subjects might also fit into the series of popular articles you and I were discussing. Renato feels that photoreactivation would be a little difficult, but Hotchkiss might be willing to undertake bacterial transformation.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

B. Davis

Bernard D. Davis

BDD/h1

March 19, 1952

Dean L. T. Coggeshall

T. H. Davies

Biological Sciences Division

Institute of Radiobiology and
Biophysics

Attached is a memo from Mr. Szilard which sketches the accomplishments and prospects of our candidate, Mr. Zinder. I can support Mr. Szilard's notion that Zinder made a strong impression upon those of us who heard him talk in seminar.

The proposal is to offer Zinder a Research Associateship (Instructor) within the next several weeks with salary of \$4800, appointment to begin July 1st or later if desired by Zinder. On the basis of my conversations with Dr. Scantlebury at USPHS and with John Simpson, who has dealt at length with the Research Fellowships Branch, I believe we should count on a USPHS fellowship at \$4000 beginning in August or September. There is some possibility that he may pass muster for a "Special Research Fellowship" at our figure of \$4800 (see p.2, "Research Fellowships" announcement).

In my phone conversation with you, you ask that I outline how to proceed in the present absence of funds in your office for the period of the appointment. I suggest that we anticipate making him Schenley Fellow if the fellowship is not granted. The \$2479.84 residue alleged to remain in the Schenley Fund would carry him for six months. This as I understand it would give you the opportunity to find the remainder of his salary in next years funds.

If he gets the fellowship then we have the problem of complementing his salary. We have an anticipated surplus of \$3865 in our Instruction budget for the present budget year, which I believe could be shifted to next years budget only by yourself.

Scantlebury says his group objects to a USPHS fellow holding other fellowships but takes no cognizance of extra funds paid by the university. Perhaps this makes it impolitic to use the Schenley "Fellowship" to complement the USPHS fellowship even though the Schenley is really University funds.

We could solve most of the fiscal problems here by applying directly to USPHS for a grant with Zinder as Research Associate and Szilard as Principal Investigator, but this would saddle Szilard with a new line of investigation and tend to rob Zinder of what is essentially his.

March 19, 1952

In summary then -- when we have your approval we forthwith make an offer to Zinder. Next we aid him where possible in landing a USPHS fellowship. If he gets it, we complement the stipend by \$800 per annum. If he doesn't (notification dates, June to July 15th), we proclaim him Schenley Fellow.

T. H. Davies

THD/sds

cc: Dr. Szilard ✓

5650 Ellis Avenue

April 2, 1952

Dr. Bernard D. Davis
Tbc. Research Laboratory
411 East 69th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Bernie:

I have your letter of March 27th re Bonner. The enclosed copy is for your information.

If it could be established that his grant for non-secret work was refused because of the AEC's failure to clear him, then perhaps we should take some collective action. I do not believe that there is anything in the law that would compel the AEC to act so, and it may be that the AEC just behaves in a cowardly fashion. I feel, however, that if that is the case then it will be very difficult to establish the connection between the AEC not renewing his grant and their failure to clear him.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds
Enclosure



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

~~WASHINGTON 25, D.C.~~

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

REFER TO:

Tuberculosis Research Laboratory,
411 East 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

March 27, 1952.

Dr. Leo Szilard,
The University of Chicago,
Institute of Radiobiology & Biophysics,
1155 East 57th St.,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

I have just received the shocking news that Dave Bonner is going to be strapped for funds this June because the AEC has failed to clear him politically, so he is not eligible for renewal of his grant. He is hoping to drop in to visit you on his Milwaukee trip next week, but suggested I write since he might not be able to make it.

He is taking what I consider to be an admirable stand in this situation: that of trying to give it the widest possible publicity, in the hope that it will serve as a warning ~~to~~ the candidates for connections with the AEC. One of the most disturbing features of this development is the extent of the intellectual terrorization that it reveals. I assumed that he would probably have little difficulty, especially in the light of his Eli Lilly award this year, in getting funds from private sources. He told me, however, that the Rockefeller Foundation, which has his application under consideration, admitted that they themselves are worried about the imminent danger of investigation of Foundations. I thought that the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists might care to give this case some attention.

Will we be seeing you here this Spring?

With best regards to your colleagues,

Sincerely yours,

Bernard D. Davis



FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
~~WASHINGTON 25, D.C.~~

IN REPLYING, ADDRESS THE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

REFER TO:

Tuberculosis Research Laboratory,
411 East 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

April 4, 1952.

Dr. Leo Szilard,
Institute of Radiobiology & Biophysics,
The University of Chicago,
5650 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Szilard:

Thanks for referring Bonner's case to the Bulletin. According to Dave, the AEC was quite open in stating to him that their security board was responsible for the refusal to renew his grant. It therefore seems to me that there ought to be a good chance of pinning them down on this matter. Of course, if an issue is made of this case they might well become cagey and pretend there were other reasons for the refusal. However, even if Dave doesn't have any commitment in writing (which he may even have), it would seem difficult for them to explain why Bonner was referred to a member of their security staff when he asked for an opportunity to discuss the refusal.

Sincerely yours,

Bernie

Bernard D. Davis

5650 Ellis Avenue

May 8, 1952

Dr. Bernard D. Davis
Tbc. Research Laboratory
411 East 69th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Davis:

This is a somewhat belated answer to your letter of April 4th. Dave Bonner passed through Chicago and we had a long talk with him. I believe his instinct is right and that it would be advisable to publicize his case in full. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists offered to do this, but I believe they have not yet heard his final decision.

You probably saw Aaron while he was in New York and got all the news from him.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds

65

5650 Ellis Avenue

June 11, 1952

Dr. Bernard D. Davis
Tbc. Research Laboratory
411 East 69th Street
New York 21, New York

Dear Bernie:

Once more we have to impose on your generosity. We are mailing you a slant of B/1t and hope that you maybe will find the time to fish for an argenine-requiring mutant by means of the glorious penicillin method. You would have to remind your technicians that this strain requires tryptophane (you may give it a concentration of 20 mg/l tryptophane). Fox is away to Pacific Grove and we are inexperienced with the penicillin method and busy like hell, and we need the argenineless mutant very badly. Otherwise--maybe--we wouldn't bother you with this.

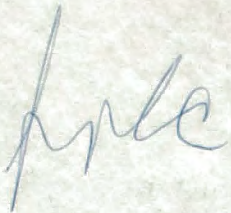
I expect to be in New York between the 21st and 26th of June, and shall contact you during that period.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

LS/sds



The Quadrangle Club
The University of Chicago
Chicago 37, Illinois
August 31, 1956

Dr. Bernard Davis
Medical College
New York University
31st Street and First Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Bernie:

I heard from Laura Fermi that you had left Woods Hole and so I assume my letter will reach you in New York.

I talked to Beadle over the telephone before he left for Japan and everything seems to be under control.

Howard Green wrote me some time ago that he becomes available in December, and since my own affairs are still unsettled and also because of the need to keep in mind promoting Howard's career, I brought him together with Lewis Thomas. He will join Thomas' department as an assistant professor under circumstances which will make it easy for me to collaborate with him if my own arrangement comes through and I hang out in your department for a reasonable portion of the time.

I expect to see you rather soon. When is the baby due?

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

per file

September 25, 1957

Dr. Bernard Davis
Department of Microbiology
Medical School
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Bernie,

Apparently a sample of three people cannot be regarded as a representative sample.

Attached you will find a "Letter" to the Times which I wrote and a "Reply" to it. I tried out the draft of my "letter" on three of my colleagues in Chicago. They caught on at once, burst out laughing when they read the paragraph before the last, and told me that the letter was nothing but a build-up for this paragraph. I thought therefore that the letter would be generally understood. Upon Novick's return, when I showed him this "letter", he told me that apparently you had understood exactly the opposite of what the letter was meant to convey. Therefore, I am sending you a copy so you may read it once more.

I have since found a number of other people who said that they had to read the letter twice or even three times before they understood what it meant. The reason for this is -- in part -- that the situation changed in the week that elapsed between sending the letter in and its appearance in print. However, I should have thought that no one, who reads the letter with the degree of sensitivity with which it was meant to be read, could within the confines of the laws of logic infer, from my saying that I disagreed with the present policy of the State Department less than I did with its past policy, to what degree I agreed with this policy without first/^{being}told to what extent I have disagreed in the past.

The next time I shall try out the draft on a larger sample.

I am off to Europe in a week and might on my way back in four to six weeks pass through Cambridge and perhaps stay there for a day or two.

I hope you find your new abode enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

Gene Spivey

September 25, 1957

Dr. Bernard Davis
Department of Microbiology
Medical School
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Bernie,

Apparently a sample of three people cannot be regarded as a representative sample.

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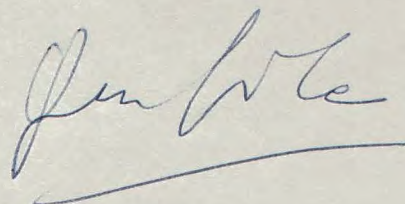
Sincerely,

Leo Szilard

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DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
25 SHATTUCK STREET
BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

September 30, 1957



Dr. Leo Szilard
The University of Chicago
The Enrico Fermi Institute
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Leo:

Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to the TIMES. I have reread it, and am as much as ever at a loss to understand what you hope to accomplish by it. I recognized your characteristic brand of irony in the next to the last paragraph, but if the rest of the letter was also intended to be ironical it was just too subtle for me, and perhaps for some other readers of the TIMES.

I have a suggestion to make. Your friends in Chicago can surely provide a representative sample on which to try out things you might be intending to submit to the BULLETIN. When writing for such a prosaic organ as the New York Times, however, you might wish to include in your sampling someone who has lived a good many years in New York City. If you wished, I could suggest the name of a voluntary editor who would be glad to serve, and who has the reputation of being particularly good about commas and other such important matters!

I hope you have a good time in Europe, and I look forward to your dropping by on your way back. Incidentally, Harvard Medical School is unfortunately not located in Cambridge but is separated from the University by several miles. The address is Boston 15.

Bon voyage!

Sincerely,



Bernard D. Davis

P.S. When you come through I'd like to get your suggestions on an idea I've been playing with for some time. It seems to me that the phage people have benefited enormously, and have eliminated a great deal of potential ~~and lessened~~ competition, by having frequent informal meetings. It never seemed to me that the subject matter of bacterial metabolism lent itself to the same kind of meetings since the problems have been mostly technical and not intellectually challenging. However, now that an increasing amount of attention is being given to biochemical problems at a higher level of organization in the cell, I wonder whether it might not be a good idea to encourage the formation of a similar informal group. I've broached this notion to Aron, Werner, Pardee, and Magasanik and have received an enthusiastic response. Since Boston is a little off the main geographical track in this country, and since a number of people in this department are very active in this area of research, I'd like to find some way of having this department serve as one center of such activities, much as Cold Spring Harbor does for the phage people.