

March 14, 1961

PERSONAL

Dr. Max R. Zelle
Division of Biology and Medicine
The United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Zelle:

Enclosed I am sending you a memorandum in two copies which relates to the conversation that I recently had with you in Washington.

I find that I cannot go to the Gatlinburg meeting because, at the time of that meeting, I am supposed to attend the Centennial celebration of M.I.T. in Cambridge. I expect to be back in Washington, at the Hotel Dupont Plaza, shortly thereafter, and perhaps we could continue our conversation upon your return from Gatlinburg.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Leo Szilard

March 14, 1961

Dr. Douglas Grahn
c/o Dr. Max R. Zelle
Division of Biology and Medicine
The United States Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Grahn:

Enclosed is a copy of a memorandum relating to a project which I have discussed with Dr. Zelle. I understand from Dr. Zelle that the subject matter might interest you. I am staying, for the next few weeks, in Washington at the Hotel Dupont Plaza, and if you feel like discussing this and related matters, I should be glad if you would call me on the telephone and we could arrange to meet some time at your convenience.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely,



Leo Szilard

File copy

Dr. Max Zelle
Division of Biology
U.S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D.C.

United States of America.

Geneva, ^{15th} ~~25~~ August, 1963

Dear Dr. Zelle,

About two years ago, I sent you a multigraphed manuscript, in which I propose that the mutagenic effect of radiation ~~mutagenic~~ be determined in mice, by observing the sex-linked lethals. Subsequently, we discussed this manuscript and you put me into contact with a geneticist on your staff, whose name has slipped my mind. He thought that perhaps he might carry out experiments of this sort. He proposed that the number of mice required be reduced, by using a strain of mice having a sex-linked gene that affects the colour of the coat.

I have been asked by the World Health Organization to prepare for them a Memorandum on the possibility of studying mutagenesis in mice, by measuring the number of sex-linked lethals produced and I am writing to you to say that I should be grateful if you were:

- (1) to send me a photocopy of my manuscript to Geneva. I have left my own copy stored away in Washington, D.C. and have no access to it, at the moment.
- (2) to transmit the attached copy of this letter to the geneticist on your staff, whose name has slipped my mind. My request to him is that he send me a short note on his proposal of reducing the number of mice required, by using a strain of mice which has a sex-linked gene that

controls coat colour. I would like to have his permission to submit his note, over his signature, along with my original manuscript and a ~~note~~ covering Memorandum (which would tie everything together), to the World Health Organization.

- (3) to write me the name and present address of the geneticist, referred to above, whose name has slipped my mind.

My mail address, until further notice, is

c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland.

Incidentally, if the A.E.C. has any concrete plans to set up experiments on the sex-linked mutations in mice in the foreseeable future, I should greatly appreciate your advising me of such plans.

I am sorry to bother you with all this, but I might not be back in the States until early October and I need the information before that time.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Leo Szilard

Argonne National Laboratory

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August 28, 1963

Dr. Leo Szilard
c/o Dr. Martin Kaplan
World Health Organization
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Doctor Szilard:

I remember well our conversation of a couple of years ago concerning the possibility of testing for sex-linked lethal induction in mice. The mouse geneticist whom I mentioned is Dr. Douglas Grahn. You will note from the letterhead that I have left the Commission and presently am the Director of the Division of Biological and Medical Research here at Argonne. Dr. Grahn is also here in this Division and is serving as an Associate Director of the Division.

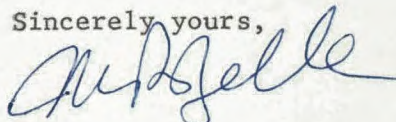
We are seriously contemplating a pilot experiment on the induction by radiation of sex-linked lethal mutations in mice. This will be under Dr. Grahn's supervision and we hope to initiate the experiments in a few months. I am turning your letter over to Dr. Grahn who is, unfortunately, away from the Laboratory this week and cannot reply until his return. I, myself, will be absent from the Laboratory for a month beginning next week; hence, Dr. Grahn and I will not have an opportunity to discuss the matter until the end of September.

Unfortunately, I do not have a copy of the manuscript you gave us two years ago. It is possible that Dr. Grahn does have a copy of the manuscript but it is more likely that a copy is in the files of the Division of Biology and Medicine at AEC Headquarters in Washington, D. C. I shall ask Dr. Grahn to contact the Washington Headquarters to see if he can find the copy in case he does not have it in his own files.

Dr. Grahn will supply you the details of our current plans for the sex-linked lethal mutation experiment.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



M. R. Zelle, Director
Division of Biological
and Medical Research

MRZ:nw

cc: Dr. Douglas Grahn