

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE 39, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

September 13, 1957

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Dr. Luis F. Leloir
Instituto de Investigaciones
Bioquimicas
Fundacion Campomar
Julian Alvarez 1719
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Luis:

I am delighted to learn from Dr. Ray Adams that he had an opportunity to talk with you, personally, during his recent visit concerning the possibility of your accepting the MGH's offer to become biochemist at the Hospital. I gather that you have not yet come to a final conclusion and therefore, for what it is worth, I wish to reiterate my own personal view that you are unquestionably the best choice that could be made for this post to succeed Fritz Lipmann. I can also assure you that the Trustees of the Hospital are solidly behind the plan for you to come and to take over this important post; they are prepared to support such a program wholeheartedly. I am sure you need no assurance regarding Dr. Clark's very high regard for your professional achievements and his very sincere hope that you will accept the offer which he transmitted to you. From my discussions with most of the very promising young men on the research staff I can also assure you that they, too, hope very much that your decision will be a favorable one.

If there is any hesitancy in your thinking because of any possible difficulties or delays due to getting fully into the swing of things here and learning the ropes so that your research potential will be fully realized, I feel that you should be reassured on that score. The American scene is not new to you and, in spite of misconceptions in the popular press, Bostonians are really very cordial and particularly those you would be dealing with in the MGH, Harvard and M.I.T. family.

I think Dean Clark and several of us suggested when you were here that, if you wished to avoid burning all bridges behind you, it would be perfectly feasible for you to come with an understanding that in the end you may not wish to continue permanently in the post. All sorts of possible arrangements come to mind and I think the Hospital would be willing to consider almost any of them. For example, you may care to keep your group or part of your group going in Buenos Aires under a temporary

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leader while you are working in Boston for a few years. Then if everything works out as well as all of us hope and you decide to stay in Boston, the group you have been heading could possibly continue in Argentina; in that way your pioneering efforts would not have been lost to your country and you would also have a very ready means of returning should that seem desirable.

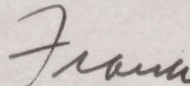
As far as the personal aspects are concerned, I feel sure that I do not need to reassure you that you and your good wife have made many friends here and that all of us will be eager to help you get settled here and to count you among our close personal friends.

In the above I have made no allusions to the more concrete aspects of equipment, space, etc. However, Dean Clark did show me a copy of the letter he sent to you and I think from that it is abundantly clear that the General Director and his entire staff wish to provide you with all the equipment, space and personnel needed for the most successful prosecution of your work. As a Trustee of the Hospital and as a member of the M.I.T. family, I wish to reinforce what Dr. Clark has said. I am sure that Jack Buchanan is equally enthusiastic.

If there is any aspect which you would like to discuss with me, please feel entirely free to do so. We all hope that you will soon make a favorable decision and that you will, in the near future, be working in our midst.

With cordial best wishes from house to house, I am

Sincerely yours,



Francis O. Schmitt

FOS/rh