

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Feb. 25, 1942.

Dr. Viktor Hamburger,
Zoology Department,
Washington University,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Viktor:

Yesterday morning I received a letter from Holtfreter in which he expresses great interest and enthusiasm for the zipper theory of tissue folding and morphogenesis which I outlined briefly last summer at Dartmouth. He seems to think there is much promise in this method of approach and since he has now begun working and is located in the Zoology Department at McGill in Montreal, he asks whether I will send him some histone with which to make experiments on embryos. On investigating, I find I have left only a very small amount of histone, but I would be quite willing to part with half of it and send it to him for his experiments since he is certainly well qualified to test the theory experimentally. Before doing this, however, I want to clear with you as to your plans in the matter since I know you were interested in following it up yourself. If Washington University is anything like M.I.T., and especially if you have adopted a speed-up program for the summer, I doubt very much that either of us will have much time for such experiments. As I remember it, you suggested that something might be done along these lines at Woods Hole next summer. If you still have such plans it might be well for me to mention it to Holtfreter in replying to his letter. Please give me your reaction as to how I should treat his request in the light of your own interest in the problem.

I understand Slein is now working with Cori on some defense project. I presume Shorty Grave~~s~~ is still with you, although he did not answer my letter in which I suggested several possible sources of employment. Right now we are looking for a biochemical assistant and Shorty would do very well if he could only change his spots and become more reliable. Lenny is now beginning research and I have put him on an investigation of the molecular structure of cilia and trichocysts. I still do not know whether he is capable of doing research.

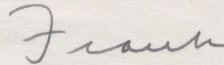
Dr. Viktor Hamburger - 2.

Feb. 25, 1942.

I recently got a letter from Dr. Grave and it appears that he is physically well but mentally very disturbed by world affairs. Someone told me that Steinbach had accepted your appointment. The last I heard from you was that he was considering it.

Please give me a reply about Holtfreter as soon as possible so that I can answer his letter.

Yours as ever,



Francis O. Schmitt.

FOS:O