

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

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LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL,
HILLS ROAD,
CAMBRIDGE.

20th July, 1962

Dr. H.J. Bhabha, F.R.S.,
Director, Institute of Fundamental Research,
Bombay.

Dear Dr. Bhabha,

Thank you for your letter of 9th July. My own preference would also have been for the Institute and I am very happy to accept your offer of a Fellowship.

I will, in general, need facilities for 1. microbiological work 2. chemical work. An essential requirement for the first is an efficiently functioning kitchen which will be responsible for washing and sterilisation of glassware, preparation of media etc. We will also need a small cold room at 4°C and a hot room at 37°C. For most of the experimental work we need a standard chemical lab with adequate bench space. It will, however, have to be draft-free and designed to minimise contamination.

I attach a list of equipment that we are likely to use. I realise that some of it may not be immediately available. Some of the more expensive items may already be there in other labs and I may be able to have their use for the time being. Others like the ultra-centrifuges are not immediately essential and I have included them for completeness. Eventually though, I hope we will be able to set up as well-equipped a laboratory as possible. Some of the items such as the kitchen equipment, balances, centrifuges, spectrophotometer, chromatographic equipment and glassware, we will need in the beginning or very soon. I assume we will have to decide on the priorities in purchasing the equipment. As soon as the lab is set up and the kitchen is functioning we could start doing simple experiments. We could then phase our programme ~~of~~ research and go

on to more elaborate work as the equipment became available. It will, of course, be very nice if I can work in Trombay while the lab is being set up.

I have attempted to give a general indication of the facilities that I will need. I am sailing for Bombay on the 3rd of August. I hope to be able to see you in Bombay and discuss with you my plan of work in greater detail. I will meanwhile prepare a more comprehensive scheme for setting up the laboratory.

I would like to thank you once again for your kindness. I need not say that I will do my best to justify your confidence. I look forward to working in the Institute.

Best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Obaid Siddiqi

P.S. I should be most grateful if you could let me know whether it would be possible for me to see you in Bombay around the 18th of August.

List of equipment

Kitchen (room to have double sinks, slunge, drying racks, hot and cold water and adequate bench and cupboard space)

Steriliser

Steamer

Washer for glassware

Distillation apparatus (for single and double-distilled water)

Oven

Culture work

Constant temperature rooms at 4°C and 37°C.

Incubators (adjustable temperature)

Water baths

Refrigerator

Deep freeze

Culture shakers (rotary and reciprocal)

Absorbtiometer (for measuring O.D.)

Centrifuges

Table top centrifuges (angle head)

High speed refrigerated centrifuge with continuous flow attachment.

Preparative ultracentrifuge

Analytical ultracentrifuge

Other equipment

Spectrophotometer with recorder (Zeiss)

pH meter

High voltage electrophoresis apparatus

Starch gel electrophoresis apparatus

Paper chromatography tanks

Chromatography columns

Peristaltic pump for columns

Fraction collector
Column monitor (at 280 and 260)
Freeze dryer
Flash evaporator
Magnetic stirrers
Microgrinder
U.V. lamp
Microid shaker
Colony counters
Analytical balance
Chemical balance (ordinary)
Vacuum pump
Burners with adjustable taps

For isotopic work

Gas flow counter
Scintillation counter
Equipment for radioautography

Glassware

Petri dishes
Culture flasks
Culture tubes
Bottles
Pipettes
Standard glassware for chemical work
Ultrafiltration flasks
Sprayers