

# TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

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23.1.82.

Dear Dr. Siddiqi,

I hope you and the family had a good New Year. Please give them all my best wishes. I recently had a letter from Karl Götz asking me to join Tubingen by May at the latest. He says delays will be difficult because of financial matters. But the thesis has still not progressed at the University. They told me that although the academic council meeting has been held, the examiners still has to be appointed. So I don't expect the viva to be held for quite some time.

Personally, I would be very happy if I could postpone going to Germany even for a year. The whole of the last year there has not been much progress in my work. I really feel that it would not be a good thing to leave it for a year or two at this stage since many laboratories are becoming interested in chemoreception. I would like to spend this year concentrating on the existing taste and olfactory mutants - getting some more severe alleles and completely characterizing them. I would also like to complete a few long outstanding experiments this year. Please tell me what you think and also of course I will have to see how Prof. Götz feels about it. I will have to AS you probably know, Kavita has registered for her Ph.D. on the basis of her B.Sc degree



There was quite a bit of trouble about recognition of the University. She is busy characterizing the fructose mutants. Since they are autosomal the process is much more cumbersome; but seemingly some of them are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> chromosome.

Venkatesh will be going back to U.S. next week. Is there anything you need from here? Kalpana White also visited the lab. and gave us a nice talk on her recent work with monoclonals. Did Benzer lab get any clones making antibodies specific to sensory structures? Can you send me the procedure for obtaining *Drosophila* antenna on the large scale. We used a cumbersome sucrose gradient method recently which was not good but O.K. we checked if olfc antenna had lowered levels of antennal esterase which may be the olfactory receptor for ester. I was quite glad that the levels were comparable to the wild type. I was afraid of getting caught on the esterase story like the sucrase story which came out to be quite disappointing after a lot of work. If we get a good way to make a large scale antennal preparation, we plan to do the gas chromatography experiment which Krishnan suggested a long time ago.

I received the official letter from the Institute opening me the Research Associateship.

With best wishes to Asiya and the children.

Yours,  
Veronica.