

workshop on neoplasia at Corfu Island in Greece and give a major talk on the gene transfer of biochemical and cancer markers. Joe Sambrook (deputy director of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory at that time) who was also at the Meeting found my results very important and asked me whether I would like to give a talk at Cold Spring Harbor and, more important, whether I was interested in getting a very good job there. He said to me, "As soon as I go back I would talk to Jim (Watson) (a Nobel laureate) about it". And so he did. When I came back to Toronto I received an invitation from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to give a talk. So when I arrived there I was asked to give a talk in the morning presumably so that Watson could see what I was worth and whether to proceed further. Indeed he told me that he was impressed with my work and he arranged for me to meet the other senior people at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. I had a very long talk with him that afternoon in his office which lasted for several hours. He asked me to stay overnight and his secretary changed my flight ticket. We talked about a lot of things, scientific and otherwise.

During the Corfu conference I also met Harvey Eisen who had done his PhD with Siminovitch several years before and now was head of a small group at the Institut Pasteur in Paris. We got along very well at the Meeting, most probably, I thought, because I was from Siminovitch's lab. He asked me to change my ticket and to visit Paris on my way back to Toronto to give a lecture and to see Francois Jacob (a Nobel laureate) with whom he had close ties. Jacob was interested in my work and the possibility of me going to the Pasteur. Actually the director of the Pasteur, Francois Gros, at that time had written to me that he was also interested in my going to his lab for a few years before eventually moving to the Hellenic Institut Pasteur in Athens. I took this opportunity. The Meeting secretariat changed my ticket and I visited the Institut Pasteur in Paris. I gave my talk which was received well. We went for lunch with Jacob and Eisen and in the afternoon I talked to many senior people who were interested in my possible move there. Among them I remember Luc Montagnier and Phil Kourilski (who was a rising star at that time). Francois Gros was not in Paris that day but when he came back and learned about my talk he wrote to me in Toronto about his renewed interest in me.

I spent the evening with Harvey and his family and the next morning I took my return flight to Toronto.

At the end of March 1978 I arrived in Boston. I had been invited to give a lecture on my work by Prof Ruth Sager of the Dana Farber Institute and the Dept of Microbiology and Genetics of Harvard University. I met Sager for the first time in August 1977 at a Gordon cancer conference in Colby-Sawyer College (New London, USA). She was impressed by my work on the transfer of cancer markers using metaphase chromosomes and asked me whether I was interested in moving to Harvard. I told her "No" at that time, the reason being that I did not want to interrupt my work at this critical stage.

Another participant at the same conference was George Todaro (of the Huebner and Todaro oncogene theory). He approached me at the end of the Meeting and said to me, "I believe your data on the transfer of cancer markers was the only thing new and worthwhile at the conference. It is the most important discovery in the cancer field in the last few years."

As soon as I arrived at Harvard, Ruth Sager took me into her office and talked to me straight. "The reason we invited you here is because we want