

transfer experiment to the letter. Recipient Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells which were sensitive to methotrexate were mixed with metaphase chromosomes isolated from methotrexate resistant cells and treated according to the calcium phosphate technique in order to transfer the methotrexate resistance marker. As controls, chromosomes or recipient cells alone were plated in order to test whether any contaminating cells had escaped the isolation procedure (very unlikely indeed) and were present in the chromosome preparation or any methotrexate resistant cells had contaminated the recipient cells.

During the whole experiment which was done in a laminar flow hood I had Lewis on my right and Ip on my left. Cells were eventually plated in the selection medium. At this stage of the experiment Lewis grabbed the plates and, despite my protests, disappeared with them. I was never able to find out where he took them or why. Several days later I learned he incubated the plates in an incubator in another lab in the Department. The cells had to be incubated for about 8-10 days before colonies appeared, and were counted, picked, grown up and tested. The whole experiment could take up to three weeks.

At four days after plating the cells, when it would still have been too early to see colonies, Siminovitch attacked me. He called me into his office and in 5 minutes he told me that the experiment had not worked, he believed that I had cut corners in my previous experiments, and therefore I should not try to get any job anywhere because he was going to tell them about it and they were going to believe him, not me. He told me also that James Watson had 'phoned him a couple of days ago about a job he was trying to get for me at Cold Spring Harbor and that Siminovitch had stopped me. I should not try for any of the other jobs at Harvard, MIT, the University of Toronto or the Institute Pasteur in Paris because he was going to call them "right now". However, if I was going to accept the charges he would fix up a job for me as an Assistant Professor at McGill with Angus (Graham). I was shocked. I told him that I was certain that I was right and that "time will tell". Because I thought that some people in his lab might be jealous, I told him it would be better to investigate thoroughly before making any decision and that he might have been misled. He would not listen to me and refused to look at my lab notebook containing the data. So I was completely taken aback since I had faith in my results and was very willing to discuss them.

Two days later he told me that he had more evidence that the experiment with Lewis had not worked because they had analysed the karyotypes of the cells and found that the colonies in the cultures treated with the chromosomes were of donor cells.

This seemed to me unlikely. First, because it was practically impossible to perform this analysis at such an early stage. However, a few days later, when I asked him how it was possible to do chromosome analysis so early in the experiment, he contradicted his earlier story by saying that they had not analysed the chromosomes. Second, that when they counted the colonies at about 8-10 days post plating nothing was seen in the controls which meant that these colonies were transformants and not contaminants. I learned about these results from Prof James Ingles at the University of Toronto who often came into the lab and liked to talk to me and the others (including Siminovitch and Lewis) frequently since he was very interested in my work. Siminovitch obviously was pressed for time in proving me wrong and he tried to speed things up. I was disappointed and I felt cheated not to