

# University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS AND DEVELOPMENT

515 Morrill Hall  
505 South Goodwin Avenue  
Urbana, Illinois 61801-3799

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Dear Viktor:

Many thanks for your welcome telephone call recently and for the copy of "Neuroscience Commentaries" which you sent to me. I am very anxious to read your paper and hope the last paper will give me some idea of what Mary Rawles is going through.

Today, at long last, I mailed off the manuscript for Dr. Willier's Biographical Memoir to the National Academy of Sciences. It has undergone quite a bit of revision since my telephone conversation with you, all for the best, I hope. How much of it will survive the referees and editors, I have no idea, but at least Jim Ebert approved the various changes I made based on his recommendations.

I thought you might enjoy having the enclosed article. Perhaps Bill Muchmore has already sent you a copy, but just in case he hasn't, I wanted to do so.

The approach of winter is something I dread. Physically I have not been doing too well since September, but according to the doctors, everything is under control. This is very frustrating at my "young" age, to put it mildly. Now I must return to clearing out my university space so I can move into a much smaller combined office-lab., although they have not yet decided exactly where. I have made a reservation to attend the ASZ meeting in Louisville and do hope I will be up to going when the time comes. A number of old friends will be symposia speakers there, including Bill Ballard who gave me my first job at Dartmouth, Jane Oppenheimer, John Moore, and Ray Keller. The latter received his B.S. with John Hinni, one of my Northwestern Ph. D. students, then his M.S. here with me, then after a stint in the service, his Ph. D. here with Dave Stocum (who received his M.S. from me a long time ago), then two years with Trink at Yale and another couple of years at Indiana with Bob Briggs and now holds essentially my old job at Berkeley, California. There are so many strange webs in academia!

I want to thank you for letting me write the memoir of Willier. When I arrived in Rochester to begin my graduate work with him I was really overwhelmed by all that was expected of me and I just was not experienced enough to profit from all the opportunities working with him provided. I didn't realize then that he really put all his students on their own. I simply thought I was in the doghouse with him. But at least we became very good friends in his later years and if he found I was coming East for some meeting, he always wanted me to visit with them as long as I could, and I often stayed with them a couple of days.

Best regards,

