

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
BOSTON 15, MASSACHUSETTS

May 26, 1949

Professor William C. Rose
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Professor Rose:

During the course of this winter, President Conant asked me whether I would like to become a University Professor and I was, of course, delighted with this honor and opportunity. In consultation with the President and the Provost of the University, it was then agreed that I accept the invitation of the committee that has been in existence for some years to set up a Department of Biochemistry of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge. Under date of May 18, I was notified by Provost Buck that

"The President will announce at the next Faculty meeting your appointment as Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

"You may, therefore, proceed to plan with your colleagues in the Department the development of this vital and new program which has so great a promise."

The first appointment that I shall make to supplement the existing staff of this department, all of whom, by agreement, will become members of the new department, will be an organic biochemist. Whereas both Dr. Hughes and Dr. Surgenor--one trained by T. L. Davis and the other by N. A. Milas--are excellent young organic chemists on three-year appointments, neither of them has been trained as a biochemist or has had experience in teaching Biochemistry. The funds are available to make a new appointment at the Assistant Professor level at once, and it will clearly be advantageous to do so, so that we may have a biochemist trained in a biochemical laboratory associated with us in arranging for the new course in Biochemistry to be given under the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge.

I am writing this letter to ask whether you have a young man of great promise that you would like to suggest for this position.

He would join our group on a three-year appointment, but my understanding with the Provost is that another professorship with tenure can be established at such a time as the department is satisfied that a younger man in it should be promoted.

Do let me hear from you as soon as possible. I shall be very grateful indeed for any help you can give me.

With all greetings, believe me to be

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edwin J. Cohn".

Edwin J. Cohn, Chairman
Department of Biochemistry
Faculty of Arts and Sciences

EJC/d