

Santiago, May 25, 1987

R-196-87.

Dr. Willy Stäubli
CIBA-GEIGY Limited
CH-4002, Basel

S U I Z A

Dear Dr. Stäubli:

I understand, as Dr. Miguel Bronfman told to Dr. Federico Leighton on a telephone conversation, that there is a possibility that we could receive as a gift from CIBA-GEIGY the Philips 300 electron microscope that you have been using in recent years.

As soon as I got this information, I decided to write to you immediately in order to confirm this possibility and to let you know that such a gift would be an invaluable contribution to the Universidad Católica de Chile.

A few months ago I was designated Rector (President) of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, a responsibility that I assume in difficult times and looking forward to consolidate the university development, in spite of the exceptionally severe economic restrictions that particularly afflict the Chilean universities. About 80 percent of the scientific research and development in Chile is done at the universities. Among them, our university contributes with 22 percent of the research in biomedical sciences.

As Professor of Histology, you can well imagine how much I appreciate the possibility of getting your microscope. We have a laboratory of electron microscopy with a Siemens 102, bought in 1976, for transmission electron microscopy. This instrument is now very often out of operation and apparently is getting to the end of its useful life. As you might know, Siemens no longer manufactures electron microscopes. Today it is unthinkable to replace it because of the high cost of a new instrument and in fact, our work has been seriously perturbed. If we could have your microscope, then we would be able to work normally again and within 5 to 10 years replace our Siemens machine.

I should say that the laboratory of electron microscopy, which also has a scanning electron microscope, is a center that gives service to the Faculty of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and to other occasional users from the faculties of engineering, agricultural sciences and visitors. The laboratory, presently directed by Dr. Jorge Garrido, is also the training place for the students of our Cell Biology Ph.D. program which today has 20 registered students. All this information is simply to explain our present situation and how helpful it would be the possibility that motivates this letter.

I also take this opportunity to thank you for the invitation extended to Dr. Miguel Bronfman, whose stay at CIBA-GEIGY I am sure will be very helpful to him and in general to the university.

Looking forward to have more information on this matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,

ARCHIVO HISTÓRICO
PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA DE CHILE

JUAN DE DIOS VIAL
Rector

Copy to : -Dr. Miguel Bronfman
-Dr. Federico Leighton

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