

Madison, Wisconsin  
January 15, 1958

Dr. Joseph Lein  
Bristol Laboratories Inc.  
Syracuse, New York

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your note of the 3rd, for the antibiotic samples, and for the transcript, all of which arrived satisfactorily. We have had one preliminary look both at the kanamycin and the novobiocin effect on E. coli and so far find no morphological peculiarity in the course of the action of either drug, but we will have to look again.

My incidental expenses for the last trip came to only \$15, since the hotel bill and the major part of the air fare were already taken care of. If you would prefer to wait until I send you another account for the dictating machine and supplies there for, that would be all right with me.

I am sorry if the dictating is giving you any trouble. I am trying to look into that, but the local service agent is rather hard to get hold of. I sometimes use the department machine and I will have to make sure that both are in good order.

From the blurb in the Drug Trade News you might think that Eyr and Goertl are onto the idea of using colominic acid as an analogue. But I think you will notice that they are still thinking in terms of "synthesizing a new compound" which is a little different from the proposal at hand. I have gotten hold of what should be a good producing culture of K235 and will send this right away. You will have to look out for colonial variation in this culture, my understanding being that it is the most opaque variance which produce the largest amount of the colominic acid. However, it would <sup>be</sup> best to test this inherently, especially since there is a fairly straight forward chemical test for the material.

I suppose that anything that you want to do with these transcriptions would be all right with me, but frankly I have a little hesitation about them getting too far away from personal conversations. Of course, you will want to consult with Bernie regarding any suggestions that come up, but for my own part, I would rather that you suggested them yourself and then brought Bernie into them, rather than sending my transcripts directly to him. I think in the long run, this would be most advantageous to yourself, since there might be some possibility of the two of us becoming a little bit contentious if we go into detail directly with one another even through the medium of transcription. Furthermore, I think we would be doing you a poor service by relieving you of the task of thinking about the proposals that we each have to make. So I don't think I have any right to object to what other procedure you would like to follow, but for the good of the whole enterprise I would rather recommend that you digest our conversation and consult Bernie on those particular points that you think you would like more advice upon. I would be very happy to react reciprocally. I think, too, that the very informality of these conversations would be best conserved by keeping them more or less entre-nous although, of course, I realize that they are circulated among the rest of your staff. As a matter of fact, I think you would be well advised to edit these remarks to the extent of removing the more personal references before they are circulated. I will try to organize them in such a form as to make this easiest.

I do hope I made the point strongly enough about my suggested application of ascorbic acid. There are any number of products on the market now which include ascorbic acid as some sort of cold pill. It is difficult to see any rational justification for ascorbic acid in such a dosage form. I have in mind the possibility of including ascorbic acid in a cough drop or life saver sort of thing where there would be some possibility of a topical antibacterial and antiviral effect.

I imagine this may arrive at Syracuse while you are still away in Japan, so I will hope you have had the most interesting of trips.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg

JL:ac