

TRANSCRIBED FROM RECORD RECEIVED 3/3/58 FROM DR. LEDERBERG

Madison, Wisconsin
February 26, 1958

Dr. Joseph Lein
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Dear Joe:

I should have given you another month's respite, but by the time you dig through the pile on your desk to get to this, it may be then after all.

In another connection, I got to wonder about the substitution of silicon for carbon and it occurred to me that I had seen nothing at all on the biological activity of analogues of this sort. Under normal circumstances, it would, of course, be very difficult for a silicate to enter into the chain of carbon metabolism. However, I would suspect that classes of compounds like those I have more conveniently written out on the attached sheet would be quite apt and that information as to whether these function as substitutes or as strong antagonists for the indicated compounds might be useful. At any rate, this is a departure in the development of chemotherapeutic analogues that would be worth at least searching through the literature for?

Could I ask to have found out what there is to say about this? I have in mind first of all the availability of this class of materials as chemical products, and second, whether any biological tests of any sort have been done with them. In some cases, they would be equally interesting whether substrates or antagonists.

For practical application, I had in mind using the same principles of choice of differential compounds as we have discussed before.

With all best regards.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

JL:ac