

MAY -7 1991

selecting for $lacZ^-$ mutants.
more applied carbohydrate
chemistry.

Dear Clint -

You will recall how the
introduction of nitrophenyl-
galactoside (1951) revolutionized the
study of gene expression.

Can I interest you in a similar
challenge today?

The $lacZ$ gene from *E. coli* is
now used as a reporter in
innumerable experiments. 115
papers last year had lac or $lacZ$ in
their titles and that's the tip of the
iceberg. Indoxyl galactoside has to
some extent replaced nitrophenyl-; and
"X-gal" is a dirty sales item among
chemical reagents.

Now it would be most advantageous
to be able to select for $lacZ^-$ mutants
with antibiotic- β -galactoside

Personal memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

with say hygromycin as the
opponent.

Do you have a student who might
be up to the synthesis?

We'd be delighted to test any
series of trial compounds.

Yours,
JL.