



HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Cancer Biology



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2/11/91  
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Dear Josh

February 3, 1991

Just as our paper on the spontaneous reversion of frameshifts was on the brink of going to press, Pat Foster and I discovered (through a combination of unexpected results) that most of the Lac<sup>+</sup> revertants detected in the last set of experiments in the paper (which used a strain bearing a +2 frameshift in the middle of lacZ) were probably due to recombination between the test strain and the "scavenger" cells (whose episome bears a lacZ with a deletion that does not extend as far as the middle of the gene) and did not represent simple back mutation of the frameshift.

Thanks to the kindness of the the editorial office of Genetics, we have been able to pull back the paper, and so now we will set about repeating the two experiments done with the +2 frameshift strain in a way that precludes any interaction with the scavenger cells.

As for the rest of the results (using a strain with a +1 frameshift in lacI), they stand secure: the scavenger cells bear a deletion of the region containing the frameshift, and we know from other experiments that the presence of scavenger cells is not adding to the number of Lac<sup>+</sup> revertants. So the main conclusion of our paper remains unchanged.

Sincerely  
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I hope we can tidy this up quickly.  
Certainly I shall let you know how  
things progress.  
Cairns