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To: (Dr. Markus Durrenberger) K226110@czhrzula.bitnet  
Reply-to: (J. Lederberg) lederberg@rocky2.rockefeller.edu  
Subject: E. coli conjugation  
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Thank you so much for your letter of March 30. It was thrilling to see your photomicrographs, and I was delighted that you are returning to complete and PUBLISH your findings. In any event, congratulations for what you have already pictured!

I need to study your ms. more carefully; but in the absence of a direct observation of the passage of a DNA strand, it will be difficult to make a finally persuasive conclusion about the functioning of the conjugational structures you have figured. Do you have a way to visualize DNA in these sections?

Do you think there is any possibility that qualitatively new substances are formed in these junctions (as with tight junctions in endothelia) -- in which case you might be able to raise antibodies specific for them.