

April 16, 1952

Dr. I. N. Asheshov  
New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx Park, New York 58, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Asheshov:

I have your letter of the 14th. Your position with regard to the distribution of your antibiotics is quite understandable.

We will be very happy to send you W-1485 (our best indicator for lambda), and its immediate parent, the lysogenic K-12 strain.

Fortunately, Mr. Norton Zinder will be visiting New York next week. Mr. Zinder is just now completing his Ph.D. dissertation on genetic exchange in *Salmonella typhimurium*. This has turned out to be very much a phage problem, and he shares my interest in therapy. I have asked him to try to arrange an appointment with you, which he would be greatly interested to do. He will try to telephone you when he arrives in New York, Friday, April 25. He would appreciate any courtesies you extend to him. In addition to his own immediate problem, he is also cognizant of the work Mrs. Lederberg and I are doing with *E. coli*, and I am sure he could raise the same questions and report your remarks as if I were able to join you in person.

Mr. Zinder will also transmit the cultures. The best method of securing high titer lambda is by UV "induction" (after Lwoff) of the lysogenic bacteria; it can also be grown on the sensitive, from direct filtrates of K-12, in the usual way.

To answer your final question, we are deeply involved now in these two systems (*E. coli* and *Salmonella*). I would hesitate to contemplate taking on still another system, for the present, even for this very interest question of lysogenic therapy. This means, I suppose, that we will have to depend on luck that some of your agents act on our phages.

I must confess to only a vague apprehension of your recent studies with antivirotics. Can you refer me to any publications as yet?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg