

May 26, 1950

Dr. K. C. Atwood, III  
Marine Biological Laboratory  
Woods Hole  
Massachusetts

Dear Kaja

I am very pleased that you will be able to come here for our meeting on the 10th and I am looking forward to seeing you at length.

On the basis of my experience with E. coli I would hesitate to assign any definite genetic mechanism to killing on the basis of kinetic data. Values for the parameters which you have now established indicate perhaps that each nucleus is behaving independently and that the removal of the individual nucleus follows a log linear, at least empirically. Cells of E. coli are killed exponentially by X-ray but, like your own, the direct genetic evidence definitely rules out recessive lethal mutation as an important basis of killing.

I hope that we can have an opportunity to talk this thing out during your visit. Best regards to Barbara and the three children.

Sincerely,

J. Lederberg  
Ass't Prof. of Genetics

JLps