

April 3, 1953

Ref: MEDEFC/ZIBP

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Dear Dr. Baron:

Thank you for your note of March 27.

If you would like to visit here, could you make it on and after May 19? You are welcome to stay any reasonable length of time; I suspect that you could learn all you needed in two or three days. If you were to stay any longer period, I would ask that it be not less than 10 weeks to enable the completion of any experiments started.

In the course of other work, we have included some experiments with *S. typhi* strains. A number of antigenic substitutions, for the d:— H complex, are recorded on the enclosure. Strain O-901 is, of course, readily revertible— in fact, so much so that we have rather stayed away from it. However, there is no doubt but that above and beyond its spontaneous revertibility, motility can be transduced to O-901 from any of a variety of motile and non-motile serotypes. Spicer has made some incidental experiments with Vi- *S. typhi*, but none explicitly designed to transduce the Vi factor. I have my doubts that the mouse is the best selective agent, but will detail these with you during your visit. You will no doubt have studied Felix' commentary on the history and behavior of the 901 strains (*J. Hyg.* 49:94-95), which are very pertinent to such experiments. Our own experiments on the transduction of various markers with the Vi-typing phages have been inconclusive. The most clearcut results in transduction experiments continue to be those involving the phage "PLT22", originally extracted from a lysogenic *S. typhimurium*.

Please thank Mr. Abrams for sending me *S. napoli* #187. I fear, however, that this is the same strain carried by Edwards under this number. Have any other isolates of this serotype been preserved? My letter also asked about a set of nonmotile *Salmonellas* deposited by Dr. Bruner during the war. Have any of these been saved?

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg