

April 11, 1952

Dr. Jay Boyd Best  
Department of Physiology  
University of Chicago  
Chicago 37, Illinois

Dear Dr. Best:

May I acknowledge your letter of the 8th concerning the  $Lac_3^t$  mutants of *Escherichia coli* K-12.

Inasmuch as our studies on lactase adaptation in these mutants are still in progress, and no definitive description of them has been published, I would be reluctant to distribute them at the present time. I would not say that *E. coli* was very favorable material for adaptive enzyme studies (as compared, for example, with *Pseudomonas fluorescens*): it is quite difficult to study the kinetics of adaptation in non-growing cultures. It is only the groundwork of genetic analysis in this strain that would justify its use for these studies.

Please let me know if I may be of assistance in any other way.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics