

March 19, 1951.

Miss Isabelle Havens,
Department of Medicine,
University of Chicago,
Chicago 37, Illinois.

Dear Miss Havens:

Thank you for continuing to forward the cultures of *E. coli*, etc., which are proving to be extremely useful in my investigation.

Until the last batch, none of the cultures had given a strikingly positive result in my tests for recombination with *E. coli* strain K-12, although a few interesting curiosities turned up— e.g., "Kurakowa-throat", in your first group was an unusual pigmented coliform.

However, two cultures just received: 521245-sputum, and P526709-feces, gave a clearly positive test. Can you give me any further information on the cultures or their source which might be of bacteriological interest? It would also be pertinent to verify that they came from different individuals, although the cultures themselves are sufficiently distinct to make it unlikely that they are duplicate isolations.

A batch of material received here on 3/12/51 was rather puzzling. The tubes contained a fluid which may have been spinal fluid or serum judging from their coagulation after sterilising. Most of them were sterile on transfer to EMB. I suspect now the possibility that there may have been a slip somewhere, and I hope that my having disposed of the material did no harm. The tubes bore numbers like 5711, 5708, 6557, 4982, etc.

The used culture tubes and mailing cartons will be returned shortly. Most of the slants are coming through satisfactorily, with an occasional breakage which is probably harmless.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of
Genetics.