

## THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

1740 BAINBRIDGE STREET

PHILADELPHIA 46, PA.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

June 16, 1949

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
College of Agriculture  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua:

We've been working out a pathway of ribose formation from phosphogluconic acid in enzyme systems. Since the enzymes go a bit further than we'd like, we end up with some pentonic acid phosphates. Although it's easy to get gluconate-adapted bugs that won't touch D-arabonate or ribonate and are excellent analytical tools, I've been unable as yet to obtain E. coli strains which can handle arabonate or ribonate. Have you by any chance, in your wandering through this bacterial swamp, run across bugs which handle these substrates? A slant of the appropriate strain would be appreciated.

What's new?

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Seymour*  
Seymour Cohen

SSC  
evr