

January 5, 1952 [?] 3

Director of Laboratories
Ontario Department of Health
Toronto, Ontario

Attention: Vera E. Crossley

Dear Dr. Crossley:

This enquiry concerns the paper "On the use of soluble starch medium in the preparation of smooth "O" Salmonella antigens", which appeared in the Journal of Bacteriology in 1946.

Can you tell me whether you have had any further experience with this procedure, or whether it has been repeated in other laboratories? I could not be sure from the text, in the absence of agglutinin-absorption tests, whether the starch medium improves the O-agglutinability of strains which have become partially rough, whether it selects for the smoothest component of rough-smooth mixtures, or whether it actually restores the somatic antigen to cultures from which this has been essentially completely lost. If your experience permits, I would appreciate your comment on these details.

Finally, might I ask for a reprint, if any should still be available.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics