

ISTITUTO DI PATOLOGIA GENERALE E BATTERIOLOGIA

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Dear Professor Lederberg,

many thanks for your letter of October 22, and for the copy of your comment on my paper. Excuse me for my delay to answer to your letter, but I was diseased during the last weeks.

During the last two years, I have continued to study on the problem of the bacterial transformation, especially with regard to Staphylococci. Some modifications of the enzymatic activities were obtained also in Staphylococcus, but it is quite difficult to say if the modifications of transformative nature are really "genetic mutations" or the result of a selection produced by nucleic acids. I join the reprint of my further work on this problem, in which the term "mutation" is employed, as in previous communications, with the signification of "transformation", as suggested by Boivin.

In this case DNA seemed also to be responsible of the obtained enzymatic modifications. Further research on this subject is in progress, particularly with regard to the purity of the DNAase preparations.

I have read with great interest that you have been able to obtain transformative changes in the enzymatic equipment of Salmonella and I shall be particularly glad to read the results of your studies more extensively.

I shall write to Mrs. Witkin, as you have suggested.

Thanking you very much for your kindness, I am

Yours sincerely

Mario U. Dianzani

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