December 4 , 1956

Dear Abe:

I noticed your abstract in GENETICS on effects of versene/on sexual fertility in E. coli. We would like to use your finding, if you are agreeable to letting us have a more detailed protocal, as a possible improvement in our own technique. We don't want to "butt in" on your own possible further analysis, and hope you will be following this up—do let us hear from you.

Inter alii, we've been trying to confirm Hirota's claim that Co induces F mutants from F' (Nature, July 14) but so far it isn't going so well. Dave Skaar, Alan Richter and I just finished an anlysis on the effect of motility selection: this appears to be a competitive advantage on the part of spontaneous F- mutants over the F+ background,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg Professor of Genetics