

February 14, 1952

Dr. Jackson W. Foster  
Department of Bacteriology  
University of Texas  
Austin 12, Texas

Dear Dr. Foster:

In response to your recent request, I enclose cultures of a few auxotroph mutants. These are all derived from *E. coli*, strain K-12 (which has already been deposited with your colleagues at the Gene Research Group). They are:

W-1834	Cystineless
W-1835	"
W-1278	Purineless. [Best response is to hypoxanthine. We do not have any entirely specific purine mutants].

Unfortunately for your purposes, most of our mutants are tied up in multi-auxotrophs that would be somewhat awkward for your needs. For example, Y-53 requires threonine, leucine and thiamine. Your genetic colleagues would have no trouble at all in extracting a simple thiamine-less by recombination.

Generally speaking, it is probably simplest in the long run to go after the particular mutants you need. Present methods, especially the penicillin and replica-plating techniques, make this task relatively easy.

I hope this limited group of cultures will be of some use to you. Please let me know if you encounter any difficulties with them.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Associate Professor of Genetics