

December 20, 1954

Dear Dr. Garven:

I will be happy to send you the reprints you asked for.

You should write to Dr. Evelyn Witkin, Biological Labs., Cold Spring Harbor, LI., N.Y. concerning the Microbial Genetics Bulletin.

I am happy to learn of your interest in E. coli genetics. If you have occasion to visit Melbourne, you may find it congenial and profitable to talk with Professor Rubbo, who spent a few months here last spring, and who is expanding an interesting program of teaching and research.

I don't know precisely what you had in mind by way of studies on "pathogenic" E. coli, but you probably will be interested to know that Dr. Aleck Bernstein (on leave from the PHL, Gt. Brit.) has been spending the past, and will be here another year to work on recombination in "055, 0111, 026 etc." strains. Only a very few of them have proved to be fertile, and Dr. Bernstein is in the midst of preparing auxotrophic mutants in them now, the better to proceed with intercrossing experiments. ~~Procedures~~ immediate objective is to clarify their immunogenetics, e.g. to learn whether the O and B factors are separable. There does not seem to be any practicable way to examine their pathogenicity, for lack of suitable experimental animals, and we had no hopes, therefore, of going into this aspect of it. Please let us know if we can give you any more detailed information that would be helpful to the planning of your own program.

With best wishes of the season,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

WITKIN

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