

November 26, 1956

Air Mail

The Director
National Collection of Industrial Bacteria
Chemical Research Laboratory
Reddington
Middlesex, ENGLAND

Dear Sir:

Professor Tatum has referred your letter of November 9th reference WSG/66/30/7 to me for reply.

I am rather doubtful that the K.12 strain of E. coli as such is particularly appropriate for the determination of gluconic acid, more probably some specific mutant is in question. If you can furnish me with a reference for the technique, I will endeavor to investigate and meet your request.

If it is indeed the wild type K.12 strain that you have in mind, I suggest that you can readily obtain it locally from Dr. William Hayes at the Post Graduate Medical School, Ducane Road, London. I would appreciate knowing the outcome of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:nhn