

Dear Dr. Lightbown:

I have noted with interest your paper in Nature, 166:356-357 1950 on an antagonist of streptomycin produced by *Pseudomonas pyocanea*. If you are still interested in this problem, I would be grateful for a brief consideration of one or two questions.

We are not primarily interested in antibiotic mechanisms in this laboratory, but have had occasion to use streptomycin as a reagent in various studies. I am particularly concerned as to whether bacteria (*E. coli*) that have been apparently irreversibly inactivated with SM are truly "dead". Do you think the *pyocanea* antagonist would provide a practical means of answering this question, or has it already been applied?

If you have published in further detail, I would appreciate your directing us to the reference, or, if convenient, sending me a reprint. If this application is feasible, in your opinion, I should be grateful also for any suggestions that would help to realize it.

Yours sincerely,