

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

October 31, 1950

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Joshua,

Since you are busy isolating mutants of P. fluorescens by the penicillin method, I wonder whether you would be willing to try to get two specific classes of mutants for me with a strain that I am sending you under separate cover. This is a tryptophan-oxidizing strain which degrades tryptophan through kynurenin to anthranilic acid. The two likely products from the splitting of the kynurenin and side chain serine and alanine, both of which are very rapidly oxidized by tryptophan-adapted cells. It has occurred to me that if we could obtain mutants devoid of the ability to oxidize serine and alanine respectively, we should be able to demonstrate directly which, if either, of these two compounds is the product of kynurenin cleavage. Do you think that sometime you could have a try at getting out mutants with these particular catabolic defects? With many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Roger

R. Y. Stanier

RYS:hls

