

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
COLD SPRING HARBOR, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

17 May, 1950

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

Dear Joshua:

May I ask a special favor of you? We are now preparing the laboratory manual for the course in bacterial genetics we are giving here this summer, and it seems to me that the paper you wrote for Methods in Medical Research would be very helpful. Since the volume will come out too late to be of very much use, I wondered if you had an extra copy of the paper, and if so, whether you could send it to me. I could return it very soon if necessary. We aren't sure at this point what to expect of the course, but we have an interesting and motley crew of students, and enough distinguished visitors to provide some highlights. Delbruck will be around, and Hotchkiss has agreed to give a demonstration and lecture on transformations.

Thanks, by the way, for sending your K-12 histidine-serine/glycineless strain. Unfortunately, it doesn't give prototrophs on minimal medium. I have nearly completed the experiment I mentioned to you to test the suppressor hypothesis in our material, and it is going very well. Of twenty auxotrophs isolated from a histidine-serineless reversion on minimal supplemented with both histidine and serine, 17 turned out to be monoauxotrophs, and 3 require both histidine and serine/glycine. No such combination has turned up in extensive controls using wild B/r, nor have I ever heard of anyone finding ~~this~~ such a mutant in a single step. It seems to me to be pretty good evidence for the suppressor hypothesis. What do you think?

If your summer plans include a visit to New York, we would love to see you and Esther, and would be ready to unroll the red carpet at any time. With best regards,

Sincerely,



Evelyn M. Witkin