

March 1, 1955

Dr. G. Congdon Wood
Chemical-Biological Coordination Center
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Dr. Wood:

I read with great interest your note which appeared with the February number of Biological Abstracts, and would like to enquire whether you could uncover some literature in the field of adaptation.

Dr. L. L. Cavalli and I are writing a monograph on the theme of "Genetics and Chemotherapy". While the main focus of interest will be on the problems of drug-resistance of microorganisms, we have also-planned to discuss ancillary problems of the adaptation of higher organisms to drugs or other agents. However, I have been able to find very little literature on this subject, except for the well-known problems of tolerance and addiction to morphine-like narcotics and to barbiturates. Nevertheless, many textbooks and professors of pharmacology refer to acquired tolerance as if it were a familiar occurrence, but are usually quite vague on specific details. Is your compilation coded and filed in such a way as to make it possible to dig out references on this topic?

The specific fields on which I am enquiring are:

1. Genetic differences in responses of animals^u or plants to chemical agents.
2. Acquired tolerance (or habituation, acclimatization, adaptation) of animals or plants (not microbes) to chemical agents (excluding narcotics and barbiturates if convenient).

and organ preps.

Under "animals" I would be pleased to have included tissue cells, the microorganisms are a group in which such a bibliography would be overwhelming, but which we probably already understand reasonably well. I would appreciate your comments, however, on the inclusion of such an item as a check on our other resources.

It is difficult for me to judge whether my request is, in relation to your facilities, trivial or overambitious. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics