

MERCK & CO., INC.

RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

June 20, 1952

VIA AIR MAIL

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

Dear Doctor Lederberg:

Thank you for the reprints which you sent covering recent investigations in your laboratory. The studies are very stimulating and have developed a great deal of interest among the Merck personnel. The interest was shared by many of those attending the recent bacteriology meetings as I am sure Mr. Zinder and Dr. Tatum must have reported to you.

I recall that during my recent visit at the University of Wisconsin, you showed me some evidence of recombination in Streptomyces griseus. At the time, you stated that experiments to distinguish between recombination and heterokaryosis were planned. I have been hoping to learn how these experiments turned out but have not obtained the details from any of the recent visitors at the University of Wisconsin.

Since the possibility of obtaining recombination in Streptomyces griseus would affect our research program considerably, I would appreciate very much being brought up to date on the present studies on this project. Dr. Gitterman, who came to MERCK & CO., Inc. to work on actinophage problems, would like to undertake some studies on development of resistant cultures by recombination, if the process has been established in S. griseus.

Sincerely yours,



H. B. Woodruff
Assistant Director
Microbiological Research

HBW:EJS