

July 8, 1948.

Dr. Jerald G. Wooley,  
Exp. Biol. Med. Institute,  
National Institute of Health,  
Bethesda 14, Maryland.

Dear Dr. Wooley:

Thank you for your comments on desoxy-pyridoxine. They confirm my a priori hopes that it may be possible to disinfect lysogenic bacteria with its help. I had in mind that a) the phage is undoubtedly transmitted intracellularly (although it may be released perhaps as a result of lysis) and b) that it might be possible to set up a situation where the bacteria multiplied more rapidly than the phage did, more or less analogously to kappa in Paramecium. Under these circumstances, some of the bacteria might lose their phage. If you would predict a different course of events when the lysogenic bacteria are grown in synthetic media with desoxy-pyridoxine, please let me know. Conversely, the lysogenic organism may well provide a superior means of testing the efficacy of antiviral agents, and I will certainly let you know how this works out.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg,  
Assistant Professor of Genetics,