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February 21, 1956

Miss Lois Dickinson
Boots Pure Drug Co. Ltd.
Research Department
The Priory
Thurgarton, Nottingham
England

Dear Miss Dickinson:

Dr. Joshua Lederberg has referred to me your recent letter requesting a phenylalanine auxotroph in E. coli. I am enclosing K12 mutant 58-278, which we have used extensively for phenylalanine assays in the course of isolating prephenic acid (Science 118, 251 (1953) and 119, 774 (1954)). It has the disadvantage of an additional requirement for biotin, but it is much more stable in its phenylalanine requirement than any other phenylalanine requiring mutant that we have on hand.

Regards,
Bernie

Sincerely yours,

Bernard D. Davis

cc: Dr. Joshua Lederberg ✓

* Like its K12 parent, it is sensitive to inhibition by valine, but secondary mutants that have lost this sensitivity are readily available by screening in the presence of valine.