

THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE  
OF  
MEDICAL RESEARCH

DIRECTOR  
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C/o ROYAL MELBOURNE  
HOSPITAL POST OFFICE,  
MELBOURNE,  
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

13th June, 1958.

Dr. J. Lederberg,  
Genetics Building,  
Department of Medical Genetics,  
School of Medicine,  
University of Wisconsin,  
MADISON 6.

*French*

Dear Joshua,

It was good to receive your letter of June 4 and to know you have such a fine lead on the possible specificity of the muco-polysaccharides in the role of bacterial conjugation. This opens up for you a wonderful avenue of work of which I am sure you will take full advantage.

I am concerned that you have not received either of the lots of RDE which I have sent you. The last lot despatched from here on Feb. 26 was registered and we have asked the postal authorities to check on what happened to it. Meanwhile I am sending another lot labelled slightly differently as the customs may be side tracking this material.

The enclosed photograph is of crystalline RDE which Gordon Ada and I succeeded in obtaining last week. It seems to be approaching 95 to 100% purity and has very high activity. If you get promising results with the material I am sending you we will let you have some of this crystalline material. Incidentally I doubt whether any local RDE obtainable for a while will have sufficient titre or the required degree of purity for your work. Gordon and I can probably let you have sufficient material provided we can get it to you safely.

We are beginning to make a little progress with the mechanism of induction of the enzyme by neuraminic acid derivatives. Feldman's Medium did not prove entirely satisfactory because on prolonged incubation the RDE rapidly disappeared. This difficulty has been largely overcome by the addition of small amounts of acid treated peptone to the medium in which there is only a low level of enzyme produced in the absence of the induced substance.

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Although this is not an entirely synthetic medium we think it will allow us to make some observations on the induction phenomenon. We will let you have a copy of our results when they are obtained.

I do hope this material gets through to you this time. Please let me know if it has not arrived within a week of this letter.

Gordon and all the others send their regards and best wishes to you. I believe Gus has written to you recently about the Spirillum cultures.

Kindest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Fench".