



The University of Melbourne

Bacteriology Department.
Carlton, N.3., 14th October, 1959.
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Professor and Mrs. J. Lederberg,
Department of Genetics,
Stanford University,
Stanford, California, U. S. A.

Dear Esther and Josh,

I've left it too long since writing to you last, but I've been hearing of your activities through Bob or Syd and more recently in greater detail from Maggie who is now back in Melbourne in magnificent form.

Things have been going reasonably well here. Barbara Fargie, who I'm sure Esther will remember, has been awarded an Italian Government scholarship to spend 10 months with Luca Cavalli in Italy, and she leaves in 3 weeks time by boat. In December Jan Edgar is coming to take Barbara's place. Jan has been working with Bruce Stocker in London on Staph. transduction, you may have met her there.

Pseudomonas has been co-operating reasonably well but it has been a very busy year and not as much has been accomplished as was hoped. Things are a bit hectic with Frank Gibson away. Also David White, lecturer in Virology is away at Bethesda. I acquired chicken pox from Peter in May and spent a month home from the lab.

However, we now have a system of transduction ~~a~~ la Salmonella with at least three and possibly four unrelated phages capable of transduction. We have a number of rather interesting developments. These include different responses of various phages to UV in relation to their transducing ability and the transduction of one marker (prolineless) at a very much higher frequencies than other markers with one phage.

I have been playing around with a host induced modification of some phages and its relation to the progeny of crosses between the two hosts involved. I get the impression that the ground work of data which has been accumulated over the last few years is at last paying off. Also we now have recombination of Pseudomonas phages and Barry Egan is using this in some work on mutations affecting lysogenisation frequency.

Barbara and I have at last rounded off the linkage and fertility factor data and this has been written up. I realize that you must be more than deluged with work, but I would certainly appreciate your comments and

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critisms of this manuscript. I won't send it, however, until I hear from you that it is alright to do so. It doesn't contain anything sensational but ties together a lot of data we have collected.

Plans for the future include some radiation work using a Co-60 bomb. A carpet company in Dandenong has just installed one for £600,000 to sterilize its goat hair and has also built a lab. for research workers. Syd is chief scientific consultant to the company.

How are you liking California? Stanford is my favorite place in all the U.S.A. We had a most enjoyable visit from Francis and Betty Ryan in August. It looks like you'll be keeping your promise to be present at the opening of our new building in about February, 1962. Plans for our building are currently being prepared by the architects.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Bruce
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