

December 8, 1953

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Dear Ted:

In response to your letter of November 24 Esther is preparing to send you the following strains:

Group 1 -- K12, lysogenic and W1485, a lambda sensitive mutant derived directly from it.

Group 2 -- In order to furnish a more coherent group of strains the genetic differences among which may be more confidently expected to be confined to their status in re. lambda, the following. These are all prototroph cultures.

W2117 lambda sensitive, Lp^s

W2115 immune-1, Lp^r

W2118 lysogenic, Lp^+

W2119 Lp_2^r . Lp_1^+

W2120 Lp_1^s , Lp_2^r . immune-2

W2121 double immune, Lp_1^r , Lp_2^r

The detailed comparisons should, we think, be made with the cultures of Group 2 for the reasons indicated. However, strains K12 and W1485 have been very widely distributed and the latter is ^{no}doubt some, but not all, of the strain designated as "s". Some of our colleagues have been unforgivably sloppy in preserving the strain numbers and therefore details as to the pedigrees of the cultures that they have been using.

As concerns this summer, we will be delighted to give careful and sympathetic consideration to any proposals that you will be able to make. We are, however, in the meantime considering some alternative plans and you should not, therefore, consider that either you or we have as yet made any binding commitments. Good luck with the strains we are sending.

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As the result of a casual conversation with one of the biochemists from Du Pont I have received from them a rather large sample of a polyelectrolyte rather similar to the one you referred to in your Cold Spring Harbor manuscript. This one is a diethyl derivative of methacrylic acid but otherwise quite similar to your compound. If a preliminary experiment indicates that it works in the same general way as your material was described to do I will send you a good part of our own sample and whatever other information would be relevant. You will recall that our interest in this question was concerned with technical rather than fundamental aspects.

I do not know whether the reference that I gave you to alkylating agents as mutagens (during our visit) was very useful. Subsequently, a rather comprehensive review by Ross has appeared in the first volume of *Advances in Cancer Research*, which will be, I think, of somewhat greater pertinence.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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