

November 8, 1955

Dr. John R. Raper
Biological Laboratories
Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear John:

I hope I haven't waited too long to answer your letter of October 13, but my own good intentions have been punctuated with trips, etc., etc.

Your course sounds like an exciting (and laborious) prospect, and I will be glad to help any way that I can. I think the Wollman-Jacob experiment would be rather too strenuous for a graduate student group-- if you do want to do it, you should perhaps get their own strains to be sure it works as they report. Instead, I would have thought that a thorough review of the compatibility situation would be more appropriate for the aims and background of a course like yours. You can have the students set up the basic tests for compatibility (F+, F-); demonstrate infective conversion of F- to F+; the aeration phenocopy; the effect of F polarity on segregation ratios; without tremendous difficulties. The basic materials are described in the enclosure, and we will send you the relevant cultures in a reasonably short time.

We do stumble into Ken occasionally -- we're next door neighbors in the new Bact. building, at least for two or three months while they are remodelling our old space in Genetics:: which is one reason (among others) for delays.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

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