

July 21, 1958

Dear Boris:

While I was going over our correspondence to see if anything else should go with the enclosure, I noticed your letter of May 31, and no record of any answer to it. I must apologize very sincerely, and can only hope you will use your imagination in connection with the enclosure to understand some of the distractions.

I don't really have any serious comment on the Pardee & Trucco work; Strominger is very critical of it on technical grounds-- I have no strong opinions one way or the other. I have done nothing new with protoplasts in the last six months, having been altogether preoccupied with collaborating with Cavalli on interrupted mating analysis. I never got anything with dna-x experiments and am sure Chargaff is all wet, just on the face of his own evidence. I suspect he thinks so too now. However, Dale Walser (who will be a colleague at Stanford) has been getting Gal transduction with disrupted lambda plus additional phage, and this may be a good lead. I should think there would be some point to your continuing with uptake expts. Did you see the observations of Doty and Marmur that small pieces of DNA are not taken up by pneumococci as well as large?

I hope there is no danger of our missing you this trip. We will be back on September 11 (returning from Stockholm via London and San Francisco; as you know we always take the shortest route!) If there is any doubt about it call us up. I am sure we can make some contribution to your travel expenses if this is the limiting consideration.

I don't know if the strains you asked for will do any good, but I will try ~~to~~ have them sent out before we leave. We may not have a $Lac^+Gal_2^-$ protoplasm but I will look. Aaron Novick (who is going to move to the University of Oregon, Eugene, Ore., this fall) thinks that galactose may be taken up alternatively by the galactoside or ~~by~~ by another glucose permease.

What are your two thymineless strains--which coli strains do they come from?

We will be leaving July 25, but you can reach us before August 10 c/o Dr. G. Klein at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, or my secretary here will forward mail so marked.

Best wishes to R'ita and J'a,

Yours

Joshua Lederberg