

# PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health)

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Standards Laboratory  
CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY  
COLINDALE AVENUE  
LONDON, N.W.9

7th, April 1952

Dear Professor Lederberg,

Thank you very much for your letter of March 28th. Anderson had told me you were full up until the fall and I was hoping that you would be able to take me then. I realise that you have to consider your own people first but as far as I am concerned crowded laboratories are no novelty, my present bench space being exactly 2' x 3'. If it is possible for you to fit me in sometime next October - November with-out inconvenience this would be the best time for me. Another point is that my fellowship applies to this year and would, I think, have to be started before the New Year. However, if this is impossible I shall try and arrange to come next March.

I have already started to collect auxotrophic salmonellas because the typhimuriumxpotdam cross presents some anomalies that I cannot clear up and I wanted to check it with an independent set of markers. So far I haven't been able to show any antigenic recombination. Your suggestions as to possible problems are very interesting. Possibly the best thing I can do now is to prepare as many auxotrophs as I can of the common types of Salmonella and then follow up any cross which seems particularly interesting or hopeful. What I wish to avoid is repeating work that has already been done in your laboratories. I am in a very strong position here for getting hold of the organisms as we make all the standard Salmonella diagnostic antisera in this laboratory and we have the British Salmonella Reference Laboratory at the end of the passage.

I am very grateful to you for offering to have me at your lab. and I look forward to hearing when it will be possible.

Yours sincerely,

*Clive Spicer*

Professor J. Lederberg,  
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P.S. Bill Hayes has just sent me  
a copy of your note on transduction,  
for which thank you very much.