

DATE:

SEP 23 1970

To : Carl Djerassi ChemistryFROM : Joshua Lederberg

SUBJECT: Rammler; N-Cl.

1. I had a good talk with John M. and Dave Rammler today. He presented a rather imaginative, and for him unusually soundly thought-out proposal for further work, on the displacement of a specific lipopolysaccharide from bacteria by EDTA, and the concomitant sensitization to antibiotics (and phosphates, etc.) which are normally kept out. A great deal of antibiotic-sensitivity-specificity hangs on this, and he has several very good ideas, tacked together with some goo. It is a modest program, with a logical series of steps, some of which should lead fairly promptly to product-useful concepts, e.g. the rational choice of chelating adjuvants to enhance ~~xxx~~ antibiotic efficacy in topical applications. The difficult problem may be to keep Dave on a fundamental track, ~~xxxx~~ instead of derailing to some 'get-rich-quick' ideas that won't really work.

John and I think we can modulate him; he certainly seems to have gotten the message.

You should get a properly delimited precis from him via me shortly.

2. May I talk to you soon, following up on your query about relevant topics for chemical research, for your students. I have in mind the chemistry of chloramines, generally, (R-NHCl) about which there is remarkably little literature. E.G. Cross-linking reactions, and other group-substitution effects as influenced by the chlorine. Alan Duffield and Walt Patton are pursuing certain aspects, but have plenty to do with the reactions immediately pertinent to nucleic acid components. And I am sure mechanistic problems will arise that should be attended to from a broad perspective. If you are at all interested in natural products in the real world, which are heavily chlorinated in many environments, you should get a charge out of this.

