Morse

THE COLORADO FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH IN TUBERCULOSIS

GERALD B. WEBB MEMORIAL BUILDING

4200 East Ninth Avenue
Denver 20, Colorado

7/23/57

Dear Joshua & Esther -

Since our secretary is away on vacation and the other is swamped with preparations for tomorrow's meeting with the trustees of the Foundation I'll have to write this by hand - which of course means it will be short as well as semi-legible.

Sorry about the rush on your trip west and hope that you can fit in some arrangements for the stop on your return. I have managed to keep a lab vacant for the future so that there will be space during the next summer for a longer visit. For now see if you can fit in some thing for November.

Your letter of April 29 is still on the top of my desk with a sheet attached listing various things that I was going to write about (many of these are out of date) I will keep and add to it.

Re: coli work I have done very little until lately with lambda transduction. I am now beginning to pick this up again and will see what can be salvaged. I have received MSS from Campbell (poorly written I'd say) and J. Weigle (not much data) and will see what things of our material differ from theirs. I have been reluctant to publish material on hand because of dissatisfaction with its completeness (also fatigue with lambda + E. coli). These things haven't stopped others so

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must get back into business here.

Re: other matters – (1) I have replaced EMB with a medium of my own – a modified MacConkeys on which I can grow and score Staph and Bacilli as well.

(2) An EMS type of this is pretty good especially if Sigma 7-9 organic buffer is substituted for a great portion of the salts.

(3) In Myc. smegmatis

Hist$^+$ S^S ⊗ Hist$^-$ S^R didn't yield much of anything. Addition of two other markers (Chlorampr^R, INH^R) beclouded the whole thing and it must be redone

(4) In Staph aureus

Erythromycin^R Stept^S Man$^+$ Lac$^-$ ⊗ E^S S^R Man$^-$ Lac$^+$

on ESM Lac Man agar (select E^{R}S^R, Man$^-$Lac$^-$) hasn't shown anything as yet, nor a S^R Chlorampr^R selection similar to the above. ~~[illegible]~~ I will get some staph phages any ~~[illegible]~~ minute and see what can be transduced.

(5) Have not enough markers in Bacilli strains yet to try the above but should shortly. Have you ever looked a growth of B. circulans? The most entertaining bug I've ~~[illegible]~~ seen and it must have some usefulness.

(6) In tissue culture work (with Helosa) I hope to make my direct assault next week on making a haploid line. This will be a direct approach, put a haploid nucleus in an irradiated diploid cell and see if it will

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bud off a haploid line. Ought to be worth a hundred tries and I have enough crude equipment to try it

(7) I may do some UV mod. expts with Lerman on survival of Gal genes in HFT lambda since it is similar to work they have going in DNA transformation. Incidentally they have looked for other systems of transformation by observing P^{32} DNA uptake. The method would detect a system with (I suppose) 10% of the frequency of Pneumo. One of my bacilli strains had high uptake but a genetic test (S^R) failed to show any transformation. You might like to talk with them about their work.

Helene + Mary are about the same. H's father died last week which was upsetting. Mary has been taking lessons in horse back riding, swimming and piano this summer. My mother is visiting this summer also.

Re: the N.Y. Acad. Sci paper I got the proofs about 3 weeks ago and corrected most of the errors the editor had put in. I will forward some of the reprints when they come in - you can let me know how many you want (I got my 500 since the last have it pold too well)

That's all for now
let's hear more

Larry