Personal memo from
JOSHUA LEDERBERG

Clint Ballou 1

MAY - 7 1991

selecting for lacZ⁻ mutants.
more applied carbohydrate
chemistry.

Dear Clint –

You will recall how the introduction of nitrophenyl-galactoside (1951) revolutionized the study of gene expression.

Can I interest you in a similar challenge today?

The lacZ gene from E. coli is now used as a reporter in innumerable experiments. 1/5 papers last year had lac or lacZ in their titles and that's the tip of the iceberg. Indolyl galactoside has to some extent replaced nitrophenyl-; and "X-gal" is a lively sale-item among chemical reagents.

Now it would be most advantageous to be able to select for lacZ mutants with antibiotic-β-d-galactoside

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with say hygromycin as the aglycone.

Do you have a student who might be up to the synthesis?

We'd be delighted to test any series of trial compounds.

Yours,

JL.

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