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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

8 Jan 91

Dear Josh,

Thanks very much for your note about Serratia infections. The last thing I want to do is to spread misinformation. I've changed my text accordingly (at the expense of sacrificing the example of a harmful dissemination of natural bacteria as a background to the discussion of massive deliberate release of presumably harmless recombinant bacteria.) The only other appropriate example I've had discussed is enzyme-containing detergents, and there my industrial friends tell me that, although there were some well documented effects on workers, the reports of ill effects to consumers were equivocal.

I'm delighted to hear that you now intend to spend most of your time on research. I'd heard that David Thaler was going to work with you on Caenorhabditis mutations. I expect you will enjoy interacting intellectually.

Since you will be seriously involved in the area, I call your attention to the Gordon Conference on Population Biology and Evolution of Microorganisms this summer. It is one place where plate mutagenesis (among a rather eclectic selection of other topics) has received and will receive critical attention and discussion from an intelligent audience. I'll send you an announcement of the program later on. Should you choose to attend, I'm sure your critical comments, reactions and recall of relevant information would tremendously sharpen the discussion.

Again, thanks very much for your comments. I always appreciate being educated.

Sincerely

Allan

CAMPBELL ✓