

# THE BRONX HOSPITAL

FULTON AVENUE AT 169TH STREET

NEW YORK 56, NEW YORK

Januray 21, 1950

LUDLOW 8-7000

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisc.

Dear Doctor Lederberg:

This is to thank you for sending me your reprints. Did you receive the strains I sent you?

In your review you refer to Boivin's and my finding on induced transformation as possibly explainable by bacteriophage action. I would be much interested to hear, on what this supposition is based. I am, of course, fully cognizant of the general argument. And I was very much aware of this possibility, when doing these experiments. But in this particular case, every circumstance I can see speaks against it, and particularly the following:

- 1) There was indication of presence of phage in any of these cultures.
- 2) Numerous cross tests - including with several strains of the same type that eventually were transformed - gave no indication of phage action.
- 3) The difficulty we were experiencing in reproducing our results at will speaks against phage action, because if there was a 'phage, we should have no trouble in duplicating our findings.

I would be sincerely grateful to have your counter arguments.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*A. J. Weil*

A. J. Weil, M.D.

