September 27, 1956

Dr. J. T. Park
Army Medical Graduate School
Walter Reed Hospital
Washington 12, D.C.

Dear Dr. Park:

I would be grateful to ypu for reprints of your studies on accumulation of uridine derivatives in bacteria. Marv Johnson may have told you something of our current studies on protoplasts and L-forms, which, I suspect may be made to tie in very nicely with your leading observations. I did mention this question briefly in a note, in press in PNAS, on the formation of protoplasts, but have thought it advisable to spell it out more clearly, as in the enclosure which is being sent to J. Bact. If I have overlooked any work of yours, or anyone else's, that ought to be brought out explicitly within the compass of a very brief contribution, I would appreciate hearing of it.

We have almost simultaneously gotten involved in uridine derivatives from a completely different angle: you must know of Kalckar's recent work on galactosemia; anyhow, we had been studying galactose-negative mutants of E. coli from another angle, and Kurahashi looked at them enzymatically in Kalckar's lab. Some of them lack galactokinase, others the UDP-Gal transferase (Gal-P + UPP-Glu — Glu-P + UPP-Gal). So far, none of the mutants have been blocked in the epimerase, and we're wondering if such a defect might not have other drastic consequences. It would be invaluable to our genetic work if there could be devised some crude but quick "spot-test" or the like for the presence/absence of some of the relevant enzymes; any suggestions would be gratefully received.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics