

July 14, 1955

Dr. Sara E. Branham
Division of Biologics Standards
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Dr. Branham:

I am afraid I cannot be much help on genetic recombination in meningococci. I know of two investigations:

1. You are probably already familiar with Alexander and Redman's transduction experiments (Jour. Exp. Med. 97: 797-806, 1953). I am a little surprised to have no later references on the same topic from Dr. Alexander; perhaps she has published recently.

2. A Dr. Gordon Allen (112 Second Avenue, Pelham 65, N.Y.) was interested in the question of genetic recombination a few years ago. Working in Dr. B. D. Davis' laboratory he obtained, however, only negative results in efforts with drug-resistance markers. But I believe he gave up when he lost most of his strains one hot day. Nevertheless, it may be profitable for you to write to him, as he may also have maintained an interest in the literature. (Currently he is more concerned with human than microbial genetics.)

I will be grateful to you for a copy of your review— as for any material that may bound on bacterial genetics.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

Professor of Genetics

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