

August 8, 1946

Dr. J. O. Lampen  
Stanford Research Laboratory  
American Cyanamid Company  
Stanford, Connecticut

Dear Dr. Lampen:

Ryan, Tatum and I have come to the following agreement concerning back mutation. We feel that reversion is the word which best expresses the existing state of knowledge concerning this process since whether it involves a reversion mutation or not, it certainly constitutes a change back to the original status in some respects. Adaptation is a general term for responses to the environment which does not, in our opinion, imply any back mechanism.

Very sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg

jl/z