

November 26, 1956

Air Mail

The Director
National Collection of Industrial Bacteria
Chemical Research Laboratory
Teddington
Middlesex, ENGLAND

Dear Sir:

Professor Tatum has referred your letter of November 5th reference WSG/66/30/7 to me for reply.

I am rather doubtful that the K.12 strain of *E. coli* as such is particularly appropriate for the determination of gluconic acid; more probably some specific mutant is in question. If you can furnish me with a reference for the technique, I will endeavor to investigate and meet your request.

If it is indeed the wild type K.12 strain that you have in mind, I suggest that you can readily obtain it locally from Dr. William Hayes at the Post Graduate Medical School, Ducane Road, London. I would appreciate knowing the outcome of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL:nkm