

May 6, 1956

Hi Bernie:

Newton Morton is going over the genetics of Lac loci, and as something of a sideline is checking on the recombinational identity of the "Lac-", Lac-constitutive and histidineless qualities of your J2-1 stock. Before he goes much further with it, we thought we should check with you on its history, which Borek did not have in detail. Is that stock, as you sent it to Borek at least, a "one-step" offshoot of K-12? (Had you known it was Lac-?) This is only part of a routine survey of Lac- mutants, and if you know of anyone else who is going into a detailed analysis of this story please let me know.

(Dr. Morton is the fellow who is going to start some sprt of program in medical genetics, with an appointment starting this summer as "Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Human Genetics". The anatomy is a weird expedient: at least I hope it's just that. Anyhow, Newt' feels rather saturated with statistical genetics (linkage in man) and with some of Gordon Allen's erstwhile motives wants to ~~now~~ spend a year or so in laboratory work in physiological genetics, and what better for fundamentals than bacteria?

You may be amused that at least three of our Gal⁻ mutants (the ones so far tested) have the identical enzymatic block as the galactosemic children, according to Kalckar's people who have been screening some cultures for us. Newt' and I are mulling over the possibility of looking, for example, for some Lac- kids too if we can get some clinical help on it. Conversely, Harry Eagle is trying to grow fibroblasts from the Gal- children to establish at least one selectable mutant marker.

Any chance of seeing you in Madison this spring or summer? Our plans include the meetings at Baltimore and Ann Arbor; we'll probably be home the rest of the summer; maybe a week or two at Woods Hole.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg