



VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

HOSPITAL
ALBANY, NEW YORK

July 23, 1959

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO: 5247/172

Prof. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Josh:

It was good to hear that you and your group have settled at Stanford. I really appreciate your invitation to visit you. I am sure that it will be most fruitful from every angle I can think of. Unfortunately, being myself in the same position of organizing a new laboratory I find it would be very hard to do so in the near future. Perhaps when Raquelita will be here in the Fall we could arrange something.

I have received from Larry Morse an almost complete series of Gal mutants which I will test for galactose permease. The only one missing is Gal₅. I cannot answer your question if the lactose-negative character of the Lac₃⁻ mutants is due to the defect in galactose permease for the simple reason that I haven't been able to get my hands on such a mutant. I am waiting anxiously for a culture of this mutant and for the other one, Gal₂⁻ and Lac₂ or Lac₄ which you said you might get.

I agree that your hypothesis of galactose as an internal inducer still stands the facts (although it is weakening with time) and it will be nice to test the mutant deficient in the epimerase. Does such a bug exist? I have looked at existing papers and I haven't found it.

With best regards for Esther and you,

Yours,

Boris Rotman