

Larson

AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY

1937 WEST MAIN STREET
STAMFORD, CONN.



TELEPHONE
STAMFORD 4-6141

November 12, 1945

Joshua Lederberg-A/S V-12 USNR
c/o Dr. F. J. Ryan
Department of Zoology
Columbia University
116th Street and Morningside Heights
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Lederberg:

I have delayed answering your letter until now, trying to decide what would be best for us to do. As I mentioned in our conversation at the conference, Dr. Roepke and myself are working on these strains at the present and I did not know whether it would be best to give them out.

We are checking the specificity of the pyrimidine and purine-requiring mutants with rather disappointing results. The pyrimidine mutants are all able to use uracil, cytosine or isocytosine although at variable speeds. None of them will grow on thymine. The purine strains will utilize adenine, guanine, xanthine, and hypoxanthine (slowly). Hence, I doubt the usefulness of these organisms for assay work. We are not certain at the moment just what we shall do with these strains and I think that until we have finished studying them it would be better if we did not send out these cultures. I think that in about a month we will know definitely and I shall write you again at that time. I am sending a culture of our parent strain of E. coli (#15; A.T.C.C. #9723) and also a transfer of the uracil-citrulline strain. We have not had any serious difficulty with reversion of the latter strain but if this is your difficulty another transfer may help.

I was quite interested in your results on the PAB-less neurospora strain. I think the growth on dl-methionine is due to PAB contamination. We have observed this in some of our laboratory samples, even of the dl-compound. Here again we are actively working with our PAB mutant of E. coli and we have finally decided that it would be best not to send out cultures of this strain at the present time. I hope it will not be too long before we are in shape to publish on this organism and, as soon as I can, I shall be glad to send you a transfer.

November 12, 1945

I am sorry that I have to put you off in this way but I hope you will understand the situation. Since there are no publications as yet on these organisms, we feel that it would be better to wait until we have our data on them in a little better shape before giving the organisms to others. I should be interested in hearing of your results with the coli mutants and I shall try to let you know when it is possible to furnish the other strains.

Sincerely yours,

AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Oliver Lampen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

J. Oliver Lampen

JOL:bv