

Genetics Department
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin
December 11, 1953

Dr. Joan Taylor
Central Public Health Laboratory
Collandale Avenue
London, N. W. 9
ENGLAND

Dear Dr. Taylor:

I am taking the present opportunity of writing to you because it is my understanding that you have made it a practice to clear your accumulations of cultures received during the past year on each January 1, and I hope this letter will reach you before that time. I would like to ask you the favor of preserving, and eventually sending to me, cultures that may be of interest to you for genetic analysis. I realize that there must be many other comparable demands and I am writing now only to insure the preservation of these curiosities.

The types of Salmonella cultures that I think would be most worth careful re-examination include especially non-motile variants in any of the somatic groups. Of course Salmonella gallinarum will have to be excluded but in view of the tentative identification of this type as carrying a covert gm antigen, any unusual or atypical types of this organism would be of interest as well. At the present time, we are equipped for genetic analysis only within groups A, B and D, but we are looking forward to the extension of transduction analysis to other somatic groups and for this purpose non-motile variants would be invaluable. A second group of organisms for which I beg your favor are the specific coloforms in groups O-55, O-111, etc. As you may know, Dr. Alec Bernstein who formerly worked for a time at Collandale is now on leave from the Public Health Laboratory Service for a period of two years to work for a degree in genetics in this laboratory. He has been starting to investigate the genetics of the specific coloforms in collaboration with my wife and myself and has thus far succeeded in verifying the crossability of at least one O-55 strain. We are, however, anxious to extend this analysis to as many additional strains as possible but in order to avoid needless duplication we would prefer to examine just a single strain from a given outbreak for the given characteristic, cultural or metative, serological or phage type. We are especially short of this kind of material in the O-111 group but would be grateful for any well distributed group of cultures that you might be able to provide. In this connection I would also appreciate receiving your reprints on this and related subjects.

By specifying these particular needs I do not mean to exclude any other curiosa that you might encounter that might present particular problems worthwhile for genetic analysis. I will be very glad to hear from you on any of these points.

With best regards to yourself and your colleagues for the season.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics

TAYLOR, J.