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Oct. 31, 1989.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
Rockefeller University,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Josh,

It was nice to see you at the Dubos and the Weitzmann meetings, and I thank you for the kind remarks on my talk.

I was very glad to see your NY Acad. Sci. reprint on the origin of antibody specificity. I had not remembered that the Mueller Lecture was the occasion of such an important statement, and I will see that your reprint gets incorporated into appropriate archives here. If you could send me 3 additional copies I would like to forward them to some immunologists who might be particularly interested: Benacerraf, John David, Eisen. ✓

The reference in your paper to the Monod contribution to the Henry Ford Symposium reminded me of something else that might appeal to your interest in history. Both he and I presented evidence on inducible transport systems there, and it is perfectly proper that you should refer only to his paper, since he subsequently expanded his system beautifully, while my approach proved to be a dead end. Nevertheless, while I feel that I have received more than enough credit for most of my contributions, I have always felt bitter that Monod was unwilling to dilute his credit by ever mentioning my prior discovery -- the data were limited, but together with the logic I think they made a solid case for what was then an astounding finding, that a morphological entity could undergo adaptive changes. I recently had occasion to write down the story in the enclosed correspondence with Tom Brock about his book ms. on the history of bacterial genetics. The covering letter makes some additional points that will be obscure without his ms., but there are other points that will interest you. In particular, I hope my interpretation of the peculiar role of aromatic auxotrophs in the discovery of transduction is correct.

Thank you so much for it

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I don't think so.

Cordially,

Bernie
Bernard D. Davis



** You're not alone !!
There was serendipity, but
② I think the system was a double-vent, 2 steps,*