

October 2, 1951.

Dr. E. Wesley Catlin,  
Department of Medical Microbiology,  
Marquette University,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dear Catlin:

After some unavoidable delay, we finally screened the 78 ± cultures you so kindly delivered to us on August 17. There are two which may be promising, and are being retested: Your #s 119a and 170c. Our present culture of the former label is however an admixture of Lac+ and Lac- (possibly mitabile), but both components are Mal-. I would appreciate it very much if you could give me any details on the source of these cultures, and even better if you can supply duplicate stocks of the same cultures and additional isolates from the same individuals.

Are these isolates serologically homogeneous? A variety of cultural types are represented, with respect to colicin-production, and fermentation of cellobiose, sucrose and maltose. There is a rather high proportion of Mal- types, ca. 15%. This is a character possibly worth checking, both for correlation with source, and for persistence in re-isolations. As many Mal- are rather readily revertible, however, the tests should be done on solid medium.

David Skaar, a Ph.D. from Sonneborn's group at Indiana, has started work on the immunogenetics of the new strains, but so far has only been making sera. If 119a or 170c are interfertile, would you be able to provide sera against them, or are they from another project?

You may or may not already have the enclosed reprint. At any rate, thanks again for the cultures.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.