

October 6, 1956

Dr. J. T. Park
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Washington 12, D.C.

Dear Dr. Park

I was very pleased to have your letter of the 4th. I had no notion of how far you had carried your chemical conclusions recently on the action of penicillin. Your work is usually quoted (or so I have thought) as bearing on nucleic acid metabolism; of course it was done before the more general significance of your compounds could be realized.

It would be just fine if we could get together on a publication. I've sent the short note of which you have a copy to J. Bact.— the pleasantest thing I could think of is that you and Strominger draw up a companion version, and we'll arrange for them to follow one another in the Journal, as I am confident can be arranged. I'll ask Porter to hold mine up to wait for yours, though it would be better if you could move fast enough to avoid having to disturb the editorial routine. Let me know your pleasure.

I have a thought on why other organisms don't seem to accumulate the UDP's— ~~xxxx~~ staph is lucky (for you) either in holding together a little longer in the presence of penicillin, or in the persistence of the precursor-forming system in the incipient lysates. It should be possible to demonstrate the UDP's more generally under the influence of penicillin with cells (i.e., protoplasts) which are protected by sucrose. You and Marv have probably had a chance to get together on this— I don't know his immediate plans, but suspect this is on the agenda; anyhow I'm sure you can work that out yourselves.

At the moment, I'm mainly interested in protoplasts and L-forms as tools for genetic work (e.g., donors and recipients of genetically active DNA) but none of this has worked out positively at all, so far. We have gotten E. coli to grow as L-colonies, with some difficulty, but first trials give no indication that mixed cultures will interact any differently in the L-form than they would as bacteria: e/g. no recombination, presumably no fusion, of two ~~xxxx~~ F- strains.

Yours sincerely,

 Joshua Lederberg