

# Institut Pasteur

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Téléphone : SÉGUR 01-10

Paris, le 23 novembre

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Dr. Paul BERG  
Dept of Biochemistry  
Stanford University Medical Center  
PALO ALTO  
California

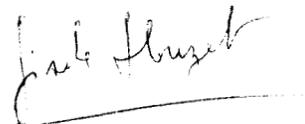
Dear Paul,

Mel mentioned that you have a method of assaying DNA polymerase activity in crude coli extracts by measuring incorporation of a labelled ribonucleoside triphosphate in the presence of three other deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates. If this is feasible, I would be most grateful if you would send me the details. Jean-Marie has prepared some labelled ribonucleoside triphosphates which could be used as substrates.

We are trying to screen a large number of temperature-sensitive mutant strains (i.e. strains which won't grow at 42°C) for possible inactivation of DNA polymerase at this temperature. We have selected a number which, on the basis of thymidine and P<sup>32</sup> incorporation, seem to be unable to synthesize DNA at 42°. We would therefore like to set up a convenient in vitro assay for polymerase activity, preferably in crude extracts, so details of your method, or any other suggestions, would be most welcome.

Es has probably reported all the activity going on here at present. The only change is that the weather has turned throughly lousy. In spite of Paris, I still miss Palo Alto.

Best regards,



for Julian B. FLEISCHMAN  
The Secretary