

February 28, 1957.

Dr. H. G. Khorana  
British Columbia Research Council  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Gobind:

I have wanted to write you a hand-written letter to match the very welcome ones I have received from you, but I can't seem to carry on such a correspondence any more. We were all delighted that your flight home was so smooth and pleasant and we certainly miss you in the lab.

The results of the PRPP decomposition are awfully pleasing, and it is our turn here to keep our part of the bargain by supplying the terminally labeled ATP. I considered two procedures; one a purification of the acetokinase to free it of myokinase, and the other the use of Sylvy's enzyme provided it was free of myokinase. Since Sylvy was making an active attempt to purify her enzyme free of myokinase, and since the demonstration of a specific labelling of ATP in the terminal position by hot metaP would be of research interest to her as well as preparative usefulness to us, I decided to wait for the outcome of her preparation. Unfortunately, a number of delays have crept in and as of the moment we still don't know how free of myokinase her best prep is. We are rather hopeful that it will be sufficiently good for the purpose, but now we have to try to make hot metaP again since an attempt to prepare ~~the~~ micro scale with high specific radioactivity gave us a satisfactory result. If all goes well, I hope that we will have a sample of ATP ready to send you some time next week.

We have been somewhat disappointed in our DNA work since preparations that we had expected would be relative free of nuclease as judged (up to this point (by an assay based on the hyperchromic effect), still lead to a decrease in the acid soluble product upon prolonged incubation. There is also evidence for destruction of substrates despite the removal of GTPase. The one bright note is that our syntheses go much farther than they used to, and we are able to more than double the amount of DNA that we start with. There really isn't much more to report, and I will write promptly about the progress of the ATP preparation. I sure hope that there will be some early occasion for you, and this time Esther and the kids, to come to St. Louis.

With fond regards,

Sincerely,

AK/McK

Arthur Kornberg.