

June 7, 1957

Dr. Joe Lein  
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Hi Joe:

I have to thank you for your kind note of felicitations.

Not much new goes on here; perhaps I can just use the occasion to 'needle' you again on some notions we have thrashed out before:

a) Are there products other than antibiotics worth hunting production methods for? For the most part, you have remarked, Bristol's distribution setup wouldn't lend itself to products outside the drug field.

b) Are you looking for adjuvant drugs in the screening programs—e.g. for agents that will potentiate streptomycin against S<sup>F</sup> E. coli/ or Tbc?

c) How goes the organic substitution?

To change the subject (and counter to [a]) my agronomic friends tell me that damping-off infestations are still a very serious problem, one that ought to have an antibiotic solution. This is the killing of young seed and seedlings, right after germination, by various fungi, often Pythium. I imagine that some screening has gone on for this purpose, but I also wonder if you have ever run through your own file of agents, or included this problem in your general screening. The market could be quite extensive, both in agriculture, and even (don't sneeze at it, duPont doesn't) in home gardening, and you would not be much bothered by considerations of animal toxicity.

I'm sure you've thought about agricultural chemotherapy, at least in general terms, but it seems to me these problems have to be followed with the same specificity as the medical ones. But I/ can't advise very much on the details.

Best regards, and please pass my thanks on to Amel too for his cordial note.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg