

February 27, 1956

Dr. Herman Kalckar  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Herman:

I am sorry that we have taken so long about developing the E. coli Gal- mutants for you. However, it seemed important to reduce them as far as possible to a uniform genetic background, and this has taken a few weeks of transductive "back-crossing". The strains are just about ready; it would be simplest perhaps if I gave them over in person.

We expect to visit Washington March 10-12, arriving Saturday mid-afternoon. If possible, we would like to spend Saturday evening with you, as this would be the best time to discuss the possibilities of handling E. coli and its mutants. If this is quite impossible for you, then we might make a date for Sunday night. We will be staying at the Lafayette Hotel, or can be reached via Vernon Bryson at the NSF, if you have to communicate with us after we leave Madison (Saturday AM).

Hank Lardy said you had some ideas about genetic selection. I would be very interested to discuss this with you too. I think most geneticists have been unduly impressed by results from Drosophila: the equal transmission of gametes carrying very large chromosomal deficiencies has implied to them that there is no genetic expression in the gametes themselves, that they are determined entirely by the entire diploid parent from which they arise. But the fact that the primary sex ratio in man deviates so markedly from the mendelian ratio is enough evidence for me that this conception is incomplete.

See you in a couple of weeks,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg