



File: Brenner

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

UNIVERSITY POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL,

HILLS ROAD, CAMBRIDGE.

11.12.69

Dear Matt,

We were all pleased to hear the White House decisions regarding CBW weaponry. I say "we" because there certainly was a general ripple of interest around the lab accompanied by widespread recognition of your efforts. There is no question concerning the value of your actions regardless of how indirectly their final effects are felt or manifested.

Perhaps you have already heard from Dave Denhardt that he has done a control on the nicking of ϕ X RF I with pancreatic DNase. The bias in preference for first breakage of the minus strand is at least a factor of three greater with my endo as compared with the pancreatic enzyme. Dave is presently doing some more experiments to verify the difference. We ~~have~~ ^{think} we have enough data to warrant a short paper comparing the actions of the two endos on the R^F I. I ~~would~~ ^{would}, however, like to refer to information contained in the proposed paper I sent you, so I wonder whether you have had the opportunity to look at it. Do you think all the material should be in one paper?

I am actually continuing to look for the gene responsible for the endo activity and have tried various quickie complementation tests but nothing has been productive so far. A preliminary experiment with crude extracts indicates that in such an extract made with an rII deletion covering both cistrons, there is endonuclease present in the usual amounts.

Aside from this, I am also (in collaboration with Jon King) looking for endo activity in isolated phage heads and, separately, trying to make addition-deletion mutants of tRNA. At the back of mind, supported by Sydney's enthusiasm, is a plan to learn some tissue culture methods and to compile a list of usable enzymes having ~~xxx~~ isozymes: usable in the sense of screening wild populations for hets and not having to make certain markers in tissue culture.

(over)

Currently I am planning to make a trip back in March, but as yet have not made any enquiries regarding job opportunities or seminars.

I suppose I should get with it.

You should come and visit, if only to see my 16th century thatched-roof cottage. Sometimes I think I'm living in a room at the British Museum.

Best regards to Sarah and the rest of the gang. I hope you are all enduring the storms of Spiro with good humour.

Sid

↑ First fold here ↓



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