THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

February 5, 1979

Mr. William Ogata
Fungal Genetics Stock Center
Arcata, California

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a slant of what I hope proves to be a satisfactory source of "crosswall-less." The first amp I opened was viable, but turned out to be contaminated after growing for several days. The second amp, which this transfer was taken from, seems to be free of contamination so far.

The history of the culture is as follows: We obtained it from Carolyn Slayman in the late 1960's, and maintained it by means of regular transfers. I automatically selected my transfer fragments from the healthiest parts of the parent slants, thus inadvertantly ending up with a culture that looked less and less like the original, and that, on microscopic examination, proved to have crosswalls. I backcrossed it to wild type, and luckily was able to recover the mutant in its original crosswall-less state. And as a further stroke of luck, the revertant proved to be healthy enough to survive lyophilization, which the true mutant was not.

Anyone who uses the culture should be able to recover the true mutant by backcrossing with wild type. Random isolation should provide at least a few examples, recognizable macroscopically by the characteristic growth, which spreads slowly, is confined to the surface of the agar, and is sparse enough to appear colorless. It is quite different from the revertant, which has thicker growth, aerial hyphae, and conidia. Of course microscopic examination of the mycelia remains the definitive means of identification. I found that a culture recovered from my own backcross could be maintained for several years by transferring at regular intervals--although this time around I was careful to transfer from "typical," rather than "healthy," regions!

I hope my explanations are clear, and that the culture will be useful.

Sincerely,

Anne Hamill

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