

733 Miami Pass
Madison, WI 53711
December 9, 1977

Dear Josh:

In the matter of Ed Tatum, I can't be of very much help, although I worked in the same lab as he did when he was a graduate student. I know nothing about his life before he came into the lab. I imagine that his choice of a graduate major was made as follows: W. H. Peterson and E. B. Fred, searching records of undergraduate seniors for good prospects, ran into him and offered him a graduate research assistantship. They assigned him the research problem that became his Ph. D. thesis (J. Biol. Chem. 29 563 (1935)).

Both his predoctoral and postdoctoral research at Wisconsin was concerned with the isolation of bacterial growth factors. At this time, the leading growth factor isolator was Kögl. Hence he picked Kögl's lab for his fellowship. I think Ed was brought to Stanford by George Beadle, but I don't know how he came to Beadle's attention.

You are probably aware that E. B. Fred is still active and has an office (1636 Van Hise) and a secretary. He should have a lot of stuff on Ed's early history. His office phone is (608) 262-3682.

When Ed was a graduate student, he was a chemist rather than a microbiologist, in the sense that he ^{ok}to a chemical rather than a biological viewpoint in his research.

Hilde and I are enjoying retirement. We spend our summers in northern Wisconsin in the woods, and January, February, and March in Mexico (Mazatlan). I have lots of time for fun projects that I don't have to justify to the dean or the granting agency.

Best regards from the Johnsons to the Lederbergs.

Miriam Johnson

Ed's divorced wife June lives (or at least in 1972 did live) at 536 Cuesta Drive, Los Altos, Calif. she calls herself Mrs. June Tatum. She is a very nice person and undoubtedly knows a lot about Ed's early history. They married young.