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JUL 24 1984

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no response

Dr. Robert C. Gallo
Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20205
U.S.A.

Our/Ref.: JCCH/064/84

July 11th, 1984

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of June 15th and for the circular letter addressed to Luc Montagnier. I am very surprised about what is now appearing since I have considered you to be both a friend and an honorable scientist. It is particularly disappointing to me that communications between us are now "official", even though prior to April 1984 you knew both my home and office telephone number.

Bob, let me review our actions over the past 18 months. When we isolated the first virus (LAV) in January 1983, we called you immediately to request anti-P₂₄, anti-P₁₉ and HTLV₁ producing cell line, so that we could compare our isolate to your HTLV₁. We promptly received this reagent and immediately reported our results to you by phone. Moreover, we have acknowledged and thanked you for the use of these antisera and cell lines in all of our papers. Following your suggestion, we then published our results in Science and we thank you for acting as a referee for this paper.

Let me also remind you that at this time we sent a sample of our virus as well as some DNA to you which we had extracted lymph node LAV infected lymphocytes. However, Bob, for me the most important aspect of this work is that each time we met and I explained everything we were doing to convince you that we were on the right track. And, what was your position at this time? Dubitable! "J.C.C., you are involved in this research and, therefore, it must be true."

Let me also outline a few of my thoughts concerning our "collaborative studies". We did receive your C₁₀, HTLV₁-anti P₂₄.

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and HTLV_{III}-anti P₁₉. However, the HTLV_{III} producing cell line was dead upon arrival. I would like to apologize for what I said to Flossie at the NIH concerning the HTLV_{III} DNA which had been sent to L. Montagnier, but my comments were a reflection of my sincerity. I would also like to add that I am still waiting for the serum samples from New York and New Jersey which you promised to send to me.

Another thorn in our "collaboration" arose when I was giving a seminar in your institute (Feb. 1984) describing our work with LAV. No one in your staff (with whom we were suppose to collaborate) told me anything about HTLV_{III}. Moreover, when I asked Dr. M. Popovic if he had succeeded in growing ~~our LAV~~ in your laboratory, the answer was "I cannot speak, only the boss can speak". This is not what I would consider to be "collaboration".

It is also puzzling to me that I was not permitted to take the HTLV_{III} producing cell line with me, in May 1984 when I was visiting Dr. Popovic, Flossie, and Sarng. in spite of the fact that Gazzolo and Zagury already had it and I am still unable to understand why we do not have the uninfected cell line if you are really interested in the comparizon of these two viruses.

I am confused by your statement that your first isolate of HTLV_{III} was in November 1982. Is this a typographical error or did you ~~hebbly~~ withhold this information from me for that long of a period?

As far as the CDC is concerned they collaborated very actively giving us serum samples, inoculating monkeys and discussed the isolate and results with us.

You will receive a complete list of materials which were sent to you from Luc Montagnier.

I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Jean Claude

Jean-Claude Chermann
Head of Laboratory
Oncology Viral Unit

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ITEM 7

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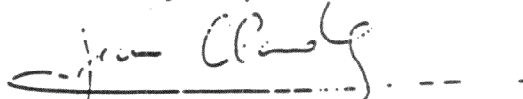
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