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Dr. Luc Montagnier
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Institut Pasteur
25, rue du Dr. Roux
75724 Paris Cedex 15, France

Dear Dr. Montagnier,

Thank you very much for your kind letter of January 21st. I admire your English. You can certainly write to me in French; I understand French perfectly, but I would have difficulty to answer in French, so, if you do not mind, I will answer in English.

My task in writing the Overview Symposium was not very easy. In fact, I worked for several months on this manuscript. Many of the data were new to me and I had to study many publications of different investigators. I am not at all versed in molecular biology, I am sorry to say, and I am sort of an old-timer in virology, not quite aware of the most recent methods. I have been trying very hard to be honest and to give credit where credit belongs, as I have been in my book on ONCOGENIC VIRUSES. It is very difficult to please everyone. I was invited at the last minute to give the Overview and actually not to evaluate the pros and cons and different arguments and approaches, but, rather, to give my general impressions of the Symposium. Obviously, there were several drafts of my manuscript and I assume that you must have received one of the early drafts, because the statements which you refer to in your letter concerning the fact that "Dr. Gallo provided a cell line for the growth of your virus and TCGF for isolation of LAV," are not included in the current new draft version of my Overview.

I have now tried to satisfy at least some of your suggestions expressed in your letter. I am enclosing the corrected copy. Most of the corrections were entered on pages 2, 12 and 13.

I saw you on television last night in a full hour program on AIDS. You presented your point very well and I think you and your colleagues should be proud of your accomplishments in this new and exciting field of virology.

I have several favors to ask you:

- a. Be sure to send me reprints of your new publications.
- b. In my lectures, and hopefully, in the new edition of my book which eventually I hope to be able to prepare, I would like to include your photograph and perhaps that of one or two of your principal collaborators. I would like your photograph preferably taken in the laboratory, in black and white.
- c. I would also appreciate very much an electron micrograph of the LAV virus, which I could reproduce, quoting, of course, the full source.

(I noticed in your electron micrograph of the LAV virus, the characteristic quadrangular nucleoid. Would you have any comment on that? Someone mentioned that the LAV and HTLV-III virus is a D particle. What is a D particle?)

- d. Finally, I would like to ask you whether you could let me know whether the Pasteur Institute library has the third edition of my book on ONCOGENIC VIRUSES? The book is very expensive, but I would like it to be in the library of the Pasteur Institute. If they do not have it, I would consider sending them one, but I would have to pay for it from my own pocket.

Thank you again for your letter, for your reprints and your comments. Again, congratulations to you and your colleagues for your very important contributions to science and humanity.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Ludwik Gross, M.D.
Chief, Cancer Research Unit