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National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20205Building 37, Room 6A09
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864087

Dr. Donald Francis and Dr. James Curran
c/o Gary Nobel CID Viral Diseases
CID Viral Diseases Building 6, Room 294
Building 7, Room SB 10 Atlanta, GA. 30333
Atlanta, GA. 30333

Dear Don and Jim:

I am writing to you to formalize my earlier requests to you for the CDC AIDS cell line which has HTLV related provirus sequences determined by Jim Mullins with our HTLV-I molecular clones. I refer, of course, to the cell line CT 1114.

I verbally requested the line at CDC in July and again by telephone, but I realize you may have had need for further characterization. Now that the abstract has been submitted to the Cold Spring Harbor HTLV meeting I hope you can send it right away. We have the most probes and are in the best position for further characterization of this HTLV variant. This should make progress more rapid, and I know you and others at CDC want this momentum.

Secondly, I have just only now learned about the exciting transfusion results of Max Essex with material (sera) sent to him by CDC. As I understand from Max these patients are virtually all + in his assay for antibodies to HTLV or HTLV related virus and even more exciting in every single case but one, at least one previously normal donor is HTLV antibody positive. I believe it is imperative to immediately locate these donors, obtain blood cell specimens, and send these fresh and as rapidly as possible to the Laboratory with the best chance of isolating the suspect virus, namely to me. Max agrees with this and I hope you will also. If I should not be immediately available please call one of the following doctors:

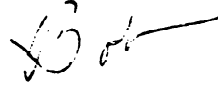
Ann Sliski, Mika Popovic, or Prem Sarin at my number.

If you can not or will not do this right away or should there be any problems whatsoever please call me as soon as possible. At this point in time regrettably I did not receive sera nor cells nor even information that these cases were available.

Finally, I hope in the future you will let me and my colleagues know about these very important cases.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Gallo, M.D.
Scientific Director
of NCI AIDS Task Force

cc: Dr. DeVita ✓
Dr. Fischinger
Dr. Chabner
Dr. Adamson
Dr. Sliski
Dr. Sarin
Dr. Popovic

RCG:gme