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Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta GA 30333

May 3, 1984

File AIDS: CDC collab.

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Dr. Robert C. Gallo
Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology
NCI/NIH 37/6B04
Bethesda, MD. 20205

Dear Bob:

Now that your benchmark papers on HTLV-III/AIDS are out in Science, we at CDC are developing plans for the next phase of our mission—responsibility to the public health laboratory institutions of the country. It is an obligation now to add to our AIDS epidemiologic and laboratory research programs, programs such as reference laboratory services, and eventually, even training and consultation services—mostly for our principle constituency, state and local diagnostic laboratories. Toward this responsibility, we must put into place the HTLV systems necessary—including, importantly, the systems you have developed.

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By this letter, may I request for CDC's use, a) the prototype virus HTLV-III, b) the super substrate cell line (HT) and c) the continuous production cell line (H4/HTLV-III), which you have developed. Of course, this request may be qualified, as you wish, certainly to prohibit secondary distribution (where biocontainment becomes an issue, and where unresolved issues of "a diagnostic laboratory network" or "a screening laboratory network" are involved). I realize that joint meetings of representatives of NIH, FDA, and CDC are ongoing, but this request is made for the narrower purposes outlined above.

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Thank you.

Best regards—and congratulations for your discoveries and very nice papers in Science.

Sincerely yours,

Frederick A. Murphy, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director
Division of Viral Diseases

4-14-84