

WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE

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Reply drafted.

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Dr. Vincent T. DeVita
Director
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Dear Vince,

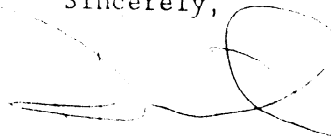
I am really not looking for a fight. My comments to Maryann were made at a private meeting and in a letter. I have been minimizing criticism in public except where I think it might serve a positive purpose because I realize that all of you have been doing a great job under difficult circumstances.

My comments about relations between NCI and NIAID have not really been about the two institutions but rather about the relations between individual investigators, specifically Bob Gallo and others. If you think that the Whitehead Institute has the same type of "personality conflicts and competitive instincts" that characterize Gallo's relationships, you are very wrong. I do agree that competition serves a positive purpose in science but Bob controls so many resources that he has a special responsibility to be cooperative and I am not sure that he can be so-characterized.

AIDS is getting to be such a big field that no one person, not even Bob, plays an indispensable role, so the issue is becoming moot. Although I still believe that Bob's way of handling himself does significant harm both to himself and to the national AIDS effort, I can see that a discrete silence, especially in public, may be the best stance and will act accordingly. Incidentally, nothing I've said here detracts from my deep respect for Bob's pioneering efforts that led to the discovery of the HTLV's and the rapid development of HIV biology and diagnostics. No matter what ensued, we all owe a great debt to Bob and NCI.

I trust that these remarks can help clear the air and look forward to productive interactions in the future.

Sincerely,



David Baltimore