



Please reply to:

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December 20, 1988

Dr. Robert Gallo  
National Institutes of Health  
Building 37, Room 6A09  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Bob:

I want to put in writing the facts concerning the restriction map comparisons of HTLVIIIb, ARV-2, LAV-1 and the SAIDS Type D retrovirus (SRV-1) done in my lab at UC Davis. After discussing our findings with you at that time and learning from you about the restriction mapping and sequencing data that you had already acquired on different HIV-1 isolates and the plans that you and Luc Montagnier had made to publish the sequence comparisons of HTLVIIIb and LAV-1, I agreed that you should and Luc should indeed be the first to publish and discuss the question of heterogeneity among the initial HIV isolates. HTLVIIIb and LAV-1 were discovered in your labs, you had on hand lots of other data to go with the restriction maps and sequence information on these and other new HIV-1 isolates and it was, obviously, yours and Luc's responsibility to resolve questions of priority and strain variation. My role was to compare the HIVs with the simian AIDS Type D virus and to show their extent of relatedness. You sent me HTLVIIIb for this purpose but with no strings attached. In no way was I prevented from publishing our data on these virus comparisons. I agreed of my own free will and still believe strongly it was the right decision, -- to publish our findings after you and Luc set the record straight on the relatedness of your HIV isolates. We published our findings in Hematological Oncology 3:187-197, 1985 not long after your papers. My research program has not been delayed or influenced in any way by this course of events.

I thank you for sending me your HTLVIIIb isolate so promptly after I requested it and for sharing other resources and reagents with me over the years. I commend you for the scholarly and solid scientific work you have done on retroviruses, growth factors etc. over the years.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Murray".

Murray B. Gardner, M.D.  
Professor and Chair

MBG:ec