

*Handwritten initials and scribbles at top right.*

August 24, 1984

MEMO: To the Record

**CONFIDENTIAL**

RE: Telephone Conversation with R. Gallo - 8-24-84

1. Fred Prince, of the New York Blood Bank, told Gallo: Information coming from Dr. Simone in Montagnier's laboratory in direct conversation is that they are cloning their LAV virus but have nothing to compare it with. They assume Dr. Gallo has sent nothing to them. One must assume a communications problem in the French laboratory, c.f. below.

2. Gallo's Data:

- Original LAV sent to Bob several months ago has now been cloned and is different from prototype HTLV III., i.e., it resembles the other HTLV III that have been cloned, all of which have some variations.
- The LAV-containing B cell line sent by Montagnier has only a low per cent of cells infected with LAV, i.e., 1 in a 100.
- When this virus for the B cell line is compared, it is identical to the HTLV III prototype, nucleotide for nucleotide!

*Handwritten note: "Is this different from HTLV III? ..."*

3. Gallo called Luc Montagnier and told him the above data. Montagnier said to Gallo that Marc Girard cloned Bob's HTLV III and the LAV from the B cell line and found them to be identical also.

- This implies that Gallo could not have contaminated the Montagnier B cell line with his own HTLV III virus, if Montagnier got that same result on his own line before it left France. Montagnier has had B9 HTLV III lines for some time now.
- It also implies that what Montagnier is sending out to others LAV infected cell line is HTLV III and not LAV.

*Handwritten notes: "I will will!" and "This should be made known to the world."*

Post Script: If that is true, now that Gallo has mentioned this fact to Montagnier, the future status of this conversation/information may become controversial. However, since Montagnier has given out "his LAV" B cell line to other investigators, Gallo could not have contaminated it with HTLV III. The facts should come out. What degree of visibility do you think will be appropriate?

*Handwritten notes at bottom:*  
1. Conversation between investigators  
2. Bob should discuss E. Brant's collection of HIV data  
Allow Brant to publish as well  
Let disease be shared  
We should be sorry to say