

(301) 496-6007
Bldg 37, Room 6A09
December 27, 1984

Dr. Donald P. Francis
Laboratory Sciences
Division of Viral Diseases, CID
Centers for Disease Control
Atlanta Georgia 30333

*FAM - Murphy
what was
the deal?
Don*

Dear Don,

Thank you for the draft of the collaborative manuscript. We will make our input to you soon. As you know our agreement was made with the ideas that the comparisons of the viruses would be published first by the Pasteur group and my lab. This is in progress now. Until this occurs neither you nor anyone else should be making serological comparative papers. In this regard there are 2 papers, one that they write (proteins) and one we write (nucleic acids). Ours is complete and ready to go. I'm awaiting their final draft. As soon as they have it to me and the papers go off you will know. In any case I hardly think this is very important since we have said from the first that the viruses are likely to be the same, and since the data was obtained all of us have publicly reported it. A comparison of sera with both is nice but not of any real concern.

I agree with you about 5 authors from each laboratory. I think it is silly, however, for you to persist in the LAV (first) HTLV-III nomenclature. Montagnier did the same. LAV is clearly an inaccurate name and AIDS virus or AIDS related virus is the dumbest name I have yet heard, especially to the clinicians who have to tell people what they have. Clearly, human T lymphotropic virus III is as accurate, as innocuous, and as consistent with the past (including past agreements among people before either you or the Pasteur worked on human retroviruses) as any name possible. In addition, last June, Jim Curran and Dr. Murphy assured me this would be the CDC name when our line(s) and other reagents were distributed. If LAV precedes HTLV-III in this paper as a title then I will be last author. If not, I don't care who the last author is. (One or the other Don, but not both for your friends abroad). If there is a problem for you then let's just forget the whole thing.

Sincerely yours,

RCG
Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

RCG:sjh

cc: Dr. Curran
Dr. Mason

*I don't recall any
deal whatsoever
regarding names.*