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Dr. James Curran
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Communicable Disease Center
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Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Dear Jim,

I have read some of your comments concerning HTLV. It is obvious that neither we nor anyone else claims to have proven that a member of the HTLV family causes AIDS. This is clearly stated in my papers. I hope in the future you will point this out. On the other hand, it is just as clearly the best published lead to date. The reasons you give as indicative of problems associating an HTLV with the cause can be readily explained, including many good reasons why antibody response might not be found in a very high percent. I do not wish to have this construed that I am convinced, just that I believe it is not difficult to respond to your comments in the newspapers and magazines.

I hope in the future our epidemiology people, especially including Bill Blattner who collaborates with me, will be able to obtain the appropriate sera from CDC, especially prospective sera and sera throughout a disease course. This has not always been the case in the past.

Finally, I hope you can accept our invitation to join the scientific advisory body for NCI regarding AIDS etiology. I believe we can work together very effectively.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

RCG:tas