



National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20205

Building 37, Room 6A09
(301) 496-6007

7 AUG 83 1:40

August 23, 1983

Dr. James Curran
A.I.D.S. Program
Communicable Disease Center
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30333

Dear Jim:

As you know I have requested that you send me samples of the blood donors Max Essex found positive for sera antibodies which may be against HTLV. I refer specifically to those donors whose blood was given to people who subsequently developed AIDS and, as I said, Max identified as antibody positive. Max and I believe there is no higher priority in AIDS research than getting this material as fast as possible to the best laboratory for human retrovirus isolation and characterization. Max and I feel, and I trust that you agree, that the laboratory to do this should be mine.

In our last telephone conversation (last week) you indicated that significant amounts of these samples were probably in the freezer and some were probably being cultured by some CDC people. I request that you send viable representative portions of all as quickly as possible. If some are already in culture and none left in storage than please send portions of the culture material. Should I be out of the laboratory please contact Dr. Ann Sliski and/or Dr. Prem Sarin at my number. As usual I shall agree that this will be collaborative and include any and all CDC people you wish on any publications which may come out of this work.

Thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.
Chief, Laboratory of
Tumor Cell Biology
and
Scientific Director
of AIDS Task Force,
NCI

cc: Dr. DeVita
Dr. Fischinger
Dr. Broder
Dr. Chabner
Dr. Sarin
Dr. Sliski

RCG:gme