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Dear Robin.

Thank you very much for your letter of January 24, and your interest in our work.

We have recently succeeded in growing LAV in a permanent lymphoid cell line and we are checking now whether the virus produced by this line has the same characteristics as the original strain.

However, it also sounds very interesting to see if the virus can be propagated in non lymphoid cell lines as you intend to do for instance in the way you did with HTLV. Therefore, I should be glad to have Mrs Cheingsong-Popov for a stay in my laboratory, so that she can learn our techniques on LAV. The only problem I see now is that of space, which is very limited at the present time. By the middle of April, we should have a new laboratory to grow the virus in proper conditions (P2-P3). So, I suggest that your collaborator stay with us at about that time. Meanwhile, if she wish to start infecting cell lines, we could send you any amount of virus required.

Sincerely yours,

me

L. Montagnier, M.D.