

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20205

October 4, 1983

Dr. Ed Engleman
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Dear Ed:

At the recent Cold Spring Harbor meeting on HTLV I spoke with Mike McGrath who alerted me to the fact that a mutual collaborative interest may exist between us. Over the past year I have been developing serological tests for the HTLV virus which at this time are well standardized and quite sensitive. These tests are capable of detecting antibody against HTLV type-I and type-II and two new subtypes isolated from monkeys with lymphoma; in addition, we routinely test for circulating HTLV immune-complex and core antigens.

We are currently interested in pursuing the question of a connection between HTLV and "AIDS". As I understand it you have collected and banked sera which have been characterized with respect to T4/T8 ratio; although I'm not sure what population was surveyed. I think it would be a great opportunity to see if there is any connection between HTLV and this aspect of the AIDS phenomenon. We have fairly large experience in the prevalence of HTLV in normal blood donor populations from other parts of the United States and in some of the AIDS-related groups but I would need your assessment of the need for testing normal donors from your area.

At this point I would like only to know whether you would be interested in collaboratively studying this question and what might be necessary to proceed. Please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Carl Saxinger,
LTCB

CC
RC Gallo ✓
October 4, 1983(cc)