



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

University of Massachusetts

Worcester 01605

MEDICAL CENTER  
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS  
55 Lake Avenue North

Telephone: (617) 856:3101

~~T copy to  
S. Levine  
D. Brettler  
L. Kitchen  
L. Essex  
6/11/84~~  
May 23, 1984

Dr. Robert C. Gallo  
Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology  
National Cancer Institute  
Bldg. 37, Room 6A-09  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20205

discuss with  
Garay. Jeff Bart Hayes  
know. Get in touch  
Send copy to  
Bart.

Dear Dr. Gallo:

I am writing this letter to confirm our collaborative study of HTLV III in patients with hemophilia A and B. In collaboration with Drs. Peter Levine and Doreen Brettler here in Worcester we have set up a five year prospective study of patients with hemophilia followed at the New England Comprehensive Hemophilia Program. We first began collecting serum samples on our patients in September of 1982 although our NIH funded project did not begin until September of 1983. We have a total patient population of 240 patients and a description of this population is enclosed for your review. Since September of 1983 we have done comprehensive cellular immune studies on approximately 130 of our patients and we will have approximately 200 studied by the end of the current academic year. In addition to cellular immune functions we have studied each patient for experience with Epstein-Barr virus, Cytomegalovirus, and hepatitis B virus. We have also begun a collaboration with Drs. Max Essex and Lynn Kitchen to screen our patients for antibodies to HTLV I. In the past year 3 of our patients have developed AIDS and we have approximately 20 more patients who have developed absolute deficiencies of T helper cells in combination with significant defects in cellular immune function (the majority of our patients also have abnormal immune functions but have normal absolute numbers of T helper cells).

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In my recent telephone conversation with Dr. Ann Slisky we discussed the possibility of your laboratory performing ELISA or western blot analysis to detect HTLV III antibodies in our hemophiliac population. Dr. Kitchen in Max Essex's laboratory will also continue to test serum samples for HTLV I antibodies and in addition she will look for antibodies to membrane antigens of the HTLV III carrier line HT which you provided to Dr. Essex. In addition I would also like to request the HTLV III infected cell line from your laboratory so that we can also assay for antibodies against membrane antigen and also do some in vitro studies regarding the interaction of HTLV III with Epstein-Barr virus. We have an NIH approved P3 facility where all work with the HTLV III will be carried out. I believe that Dr. Carel Mulder has also written to you requesting the HTLV III cell line and discussed the P3 facility as well as our collaborative studies.

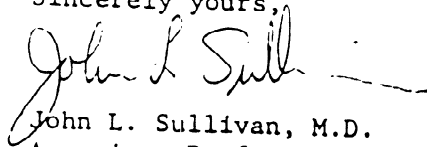
Tell Mulder concerned about 100+ people  
at NIAID.  
no letter from him yet

Dr. Robert C. Gallo  
May 23, 1984  
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I do believe we have one of the best characterized hemophilia populations and my collaborator Dr. Peter Levine is internationally recognized for his work in hemophilia and is currently the Medical Director of the Hemophilia Foundation. I have had a long-term interest in immune responses to viral diseases in humans and have contributed to our current understanding of the immune responses to Epstein-Barr virus.

If these arrangements are acceptable we would very much like to ship your laboratory approximately 100 samples next week to begin our collaboration. I will be most happy to provide further information if it is necessary. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,



John L. Sullivan, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
Molecular Genetics and Microbiology

JLS/kmb