



Date March 2, 1984

From Coordinator, AIDS Laboratory Activities

Subject Thoughts Regarding Public Statements of CDC's Role Associating Retroviruses and AIDS

To Director, Center for Infectious Diseases

These are my thoughts regarding any public statements re retroviruses:

1. Retroviruses are associated with AIDS but no etiologic link has been established.
2. CDC has played a major role in making the association of retroviruses and AIDS but the total effort has been a collaborative one. The collaboration has primarily been with Essex at Harvard and Chermann/Barre' at Institut Pasteur. Somewhat strained but essential collaboration has also been with Dr. Gallo's group at NCI.
3. A major public statement of the nature "CDC scientists associate retroviruses with AIDS" would be viewed as upstaging our collaborators and would seriously hurt future collaboration which has been and will continue to be essential to speed the discovery of the cause of AIDS
4. Perhaps the best statement would be something like:

Scientists at CDC, Harvard School of Public Health, Institut Pasteur and NCI have worked together and independently to make a strong association between retroviruses and AIDS. These groups are continuing their coordinated efforts to determine if one or more of these viruses actually causes AIDS. Besides having a major part in isolating and characterizing retroviruses from AIDS patients, CDC scientists have used their unique expertise to: 1) attempt to infect animals with the "AIDS agent" and 2) to test well characterized serum and tissues for signs of infection by any candidate virus.

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