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Memorandum

Date January 14, 1991
From Dean L. Mann, M.D. NCI File Room
Subject H-9, HUT-78 and the Rubinstein Science Article

JAN 28 1991

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To Dr. Robert Gallo
Dr. Mikulas Popovic
Through: Stephen J. O'Brien, Chief, LVC, BCP, DCE, NCI SYO

In response to your request, the following addresses certain issues raised in the article in the 22 June 1990 issue of Science, titled; II: The Untold Story of HUT-78, by Ellis Rubinstein.

The issue(s) to be clarified pertains to the article's statements and inferences concerning attempts to characterize H-9 and the various HUT-78 cell lines by HLA typing. In my view portions of the article do not accurately reflect statements that I made to Mr. Rubinstein in several conversations. In some cases direct quotes are taken out of context and used to create controversy rather than portray the actual events.

Rubinstein writes that I stated that HLA typing of the H-9 clones in 1984 was "not attempting to help Popovic compare H-9 to HUT-78 freezes because Popovic never asked him to". The sentence that follows is a direct quote that is completely out of context with the first part of the paragraph. In regard to typing clones, I told Mr. Rubinstein that cells designated H3, H4, H6, H9 were typed to determine if indeed the cell line from which the clones were derived was a mixture of cells from different individuals. As to comparisons, I told him that Dr. Popovic provided H-9, HUT-78(L) and HUT-78(B) for HLA typing in July 1984. These cells were sent together and were typed on the same day. Documents indicating the dates of these typings were FAXED to Rubinstein. When Rubinstein ask if I had a written request from Dr. Popovic to compare these cell lines to determine the origin of H-9. I told him that I did not have a written document although it certainly was my impression that resolving the cell line mix up was his reason for sending the cells for typing. No mention of this understanding is made in the article despite my explaining this to Rubinstein. Mr. Rubenstein was also told that the HLA phenotypes of these cell lines in July 1984 indicated that the HUT-78(L) and H-9 were the same but different from the HUT-78(B). In regards to the direct quote I emphasized on a number of occasions that I had no personal reason to pursue the question of H-9 and HUT-78 since I considered this to be irrelevant to the scientific goals that were being pursued.

*Original to
copied and to
SYO*
*H-9
Popovic
35 C 511
Dr. Mann
file*

Finally, a personal comment. It is a sad day for Science, both for the journal by this name and the field in general, when statements are distorted and used for the expressed purpose of "writing an article to balance an article favorable to Gallo that is being written by Barbara Culliton"; a statement made to me when I asked Mr. Rubinstein the reason for writing the article.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dean L. Mann, M.D.".

Dean L. Mann, M.D.