



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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February 4, 1991

Dr. Maxime Schwartz
Director
Institut Pasteur
25 Rue du Docteur Roux
Paris, France

Dear Maxime:

I was glad to reach you last week regarding our results.

I am enclosing a copy of a memorandum I wrote for the Record, summarizing the points I made in the conversation with you.

I would now like to make a formal proposal to you that we co-author the more detailed analysis of LAV/Bru in a multi-institutional publication. As you know, only a very short note is now going forward, but a much more detailed analysis by more groups and with many more samples is in preparation. It is this paper I would like to see as a cooperative report. I think it would be appropriate and I think it would be the best interests of science.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.
Chief, Laboratory of
Tumor Cell Biology

Encl.

cc: Dr. Raub
Dr. Broder
Dr. Adamson
Dr. Hadley



Memorandum

Date February 4, 1991

From Chief, Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, BCP, DCE, NCI

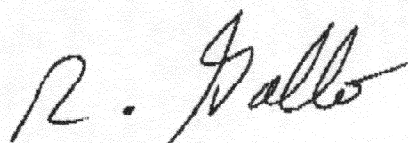
Subject Telephone Call with Dr. Maxime Schwartz: Points I Made to Him

To FOR THE RECORD

1. I believe our data are conclusive that the published sequence of the IIIB strain of HIV-1 and the published sequence of LAV-Bru do not represent the true Bru sequence.
2. We analyzed more than one sample sent to us. They are all consistent - one retrovirus -- and none have matched the published sequences.
3. There is still more confusion in some later samples but this will not be addressed.
4. The initial results which will be published are backed by additional data from other groups.
5. Though I have believed and said since 1984 that IIIB could be a contaminant of LAV-Bru (or vice versa) I have never believed that this was or can be proven. Thus, in a way, we all waste our time. I say this because HIV after one or two passages between individuals does not show so much difference (at least in some studies) and because several labs have found IIIB-like viruses in recent years. Are they all contaminants?
6. In my mind none of this changes the agreement, patent, or the respective contributions of both groups.

Clearly, our data show that the I.P. scientists had a continuous isolate, though not in a cell line, during 1983.
7. I can assure you that Crewdson's large story is a series of misrepresentations, of half truths, and of information out of context. This is not just true of his AIDS history. His article is written as a one-sided account with an objective that was pre-determined. I believe all thinking people who know any scientific history know this is the case, as many letters from people he interviewed or tried to interview will attest.
8. We have conclusively shown the presence of many detections of HIV-1 and several (not one) true isolates prior to submission of our 1984 papers.

9. I believe it is not in the spirit of the agreement for either side to be dallying with a reporter bent in advance to stir problems. I do not speak with Crewdson, neither do my colleagues. I wish I.P. staff would follow the same rules.
10. Last, and most important, I would strongly recommend that if I.P. scientists or others believe they have aliquots of those early samples sent to my lab and do get sequences which match the published ones of LAV/Bru or IIIB, that we meet with all scientific parties and go over the results in your presence, someone from NIH administration, and perhaps some other scientists. This should help clarify issues and avoid further response.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Gallo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.