

Geisinger #26

THE TRADITION
CONTINUES

HOWARD E. MORGAN, M.D.
Charles B. Degenstein
Distinguished Scientist

June 29, 1990

Dr. William F. Raub, Acting Director
National Institutes of Health
Building 1, Room 126
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Raub,

I am writing on behalf of the Panel of Consultants Concerning Research Conducted in the Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, National Cancer Institute by Dr. Robert Gallo et al. The Panel met on June 27 with the following members in attendance: F.M. Richards (Chairman), J. Aron, A. Gilman, A.J. Levine, H.E. Morgan, M.J. Osborn, J.D. Stobo, and J. Sambrook. Dr. Richards is away for the next month and I am serving as Acting Chairman. The Inquiry Team consisting of J. Hallum, S. Hadley and P. Parkman presented a portion of their findings centered on the work of the laboratory in the period from April 1983 to August 1984. The Panel considered these findings and the 4 papers that were published in Science on 4 May 1984.

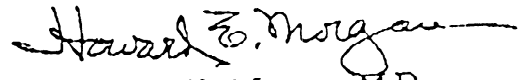
After considering a) the current status of the Inquiry, b) the internal NIH procedures and regulations, c) the significance of the change in status from an inquiry to a formal investigation of possible scientific misconduct, and d) the importance of public perception of NIH and Panel actions, the Panel voted unanimously to recommend the following action to you: termination of the inquiry phase of proceedings and institution of the formal investigation. This decision was based on the review of material presented at the meeting. Some data appeared to be missing from the data books. There is a possibility of selection and/or misrepresentation of data. There is a need for the Panel to plan experiments on the viral samples that have been sequestered or that can be located. These

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experiments will be arranged by the Office of Scientific Integrity.

In the opinion of the Panel, this situation fits the stated requirements to proceed from the Inquiry Phase to a Formal Investigation. In this regard, you should charge the Panel as to its role in the formal investigation, for example whether the Panel should interview certain persons who participated in data collection and analysis. The Panel recommends that you proceed with a formal investigation and that you define the role of the Panel and the current Inquiry Team in that investigation.

Sincerely,



Howard E. Morgan, M.D.
Senior Vice President
for Research

Acting for
Frederic M. Richards,
Chairman
Sterling Professor of
Molecular Biophysics and
Biochemistry, Yale University

HEM:dmm

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The OSI staff has informed me that the inquiry is in an especially significant phase. They expect to receive soon Dr. Gallo's response to the detailed set of Panel-endorsed questions about the four papers published in Science in May 1984. His answer will be available for review at the next Panel meeting and those deliberations should leave us all better positioned with respect to whether we have reached the threshold for redesignating our probe.

I hope these comments are helpful. I will be pleased to discuss them by telephone with you and other representatives of the Panel in the near future if you wish and in any event look forward to the next Panel meeting.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ William F. Raub, Ph.D.

William F. Raub, Ph.D.
Acting Director

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