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Dr. George Klein  
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Dear George:

Thanks very much for your recent letter and interest in the HTLV story. Vaccination in AIDS will probably be justifiable even without very strong evidence for causation. However, the dilemma is this. The evidence for an HTLV or a related retrovirus role in AIDS is far less than the T-cell leukemias where I think we have virtually established a causative role. The question is just where to draw the line. How much evidence does it take, how suggestive, before a justifiable vaccination program should be initiated? To me this is full of subjectivity. I would want a group opinion and discussion after about six months or so of additional data. It is of interest that Harold zur Hausen's department is already involved in this with the T-cell leukemias in Japan! They are purifying a gp 50 which they believe is the envelope protein (as yet there is no proof it is a viral protein), and plan a program in the very near future. I think that in the absence of good animal model data this is premature. AIDS is, of course, another question.

Regarding July 22 - of course George Khoury can come. This will be arranged.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo

RCG:gne