



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health  
National Cancer Institute  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892  
Bldg. 37/6A11  
Tel: (301) 496-6007  
FAX: (301) 402-1338

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Dr. James Watson  
Director  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories  
P.O. Box 1100  
Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

Dear Jim,

If you are in the D.C. area within the next month or so, I would like very much to see you.

As you know I have always felt I needed a few people, like you, to know the truth of these events which have impacted on so much of my life.

The recent ORI over-turning of two formal and one informal scientific review in order to find me guilty of something is unprecedented. This is a political-bureaucratic office, and its ruling will not stand because it is a perversity of the truth and in several ways it is absurd. I cannot accept nor can I believe that U.S. science wishes to sit idly while these kinds of things occur, and are then made ten-fold worse by the incredible writing of a few reporters. Hilt's indeed did a hatchet job. I wish you to know:

1. It is a lie that we did not make reagents available properly, early and completely. Indeed, with no special help, my co-workers supplied the world with reagents in that period under the conditions and at the time (just about the time we published) allowed by HHS.
2. It is false (Maxime Schwartz) that I did not make the virus and cells available to Pasteur. This was part of a perverse attempt to cover the role of IP in the blood test scandal.
3. It is a lie when IP (NY) lawyers state if they knew we cultured LAV (temporarily by intention) in a cell line at the time of the 1987 Agreement, they would not have signed the Agreement. They knew perfectly well.
  - a) In a June 1984 draft manuscript it is clearly shown that in a cell line. This planned paper involved a comparison between LAV and various HIV isolates from my lab. This was a cooperative study between me and IP scientists. The draft manuscript was typed at IP. The various authors eventually decided against publication.

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- b) It is mentioned in a 1986 letter I wrote to *Science* and published by *Science* that LAV was cultured in my lab.
  - c) It is in several letters I wrote in 1985 to people at IP.
  - d) Last, and most important it is in my very Declaration for the Agreement of 1987.
4. It is an unfair bias and a misrepresentation, for some in the media not to note that even ORI recognizes we had many independent HIV isolates of our own, many made in 1983, at least eight in cell lines by early 1984, and that we showed the cause of AIDS and developed the blood test.
5. But the biggest issue is the question of one phrase in one closing paragraph of one paper which is said to be grounds for misconduct. This is what they came up with after three and a half years of investigations. No scientist involved in these reviews, who reviewed documents and spoke with me agreed with the ORI interpretation. None of my co-authors agree with it. At the worst it is slightly ambiguous. Is this to be a permanent slander of me? Is this the fairness of Richards?

I have heard it said that some, even perhaps you, believe LAV was "swiped" by me. I assume this means I directed Popovic to do it since I did not do the experiment myself. For numerous reasons this is ridiculous, and obviously unfounded. But how should one prove a negative? And why should one have to do it?

Jim, please pay greater attention to our lack of due process; take note of what is happening in France with the blood test scandal and their failure to use our test; note also the amount of money involved in the patent; and note how long and how many investigations I have gone through, my work incredibly interrupted and my name smashed, and ask what has been objectively found? Why was this done?

With my-hope that you will lend your interest, and perhaps, your hand.

Sincerely yours,



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

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