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November 26, 1985

Dr. Luc Montagnier
Institut Pasteur
25 Rue du Docteur Roux
Paris, France

Dear Luc:

I thought an oral agreement with you meant something. I have written to all my colleagues and asked my co-workers to generically use the double name for the virus as we agreed. Although the record is not 100% in this by us, as you saw from the abstracts and titles at the Belgium meeting, at least 90% of the time this is the case as it is in the Martinique ARC-NCI meeting. Nonetheless, you yourself as well as some of your co-workers have gone straight ahead with LAV alone now coyly calling it lymphadenopathy-AIDS virus. This will re-initiate some tensions.

I had chosen to believe that your oral agreement with Robin Weiss on CEM was explainable and a rare incident. I hope your oral words with me have meaning. In any case I would like to see a written response from you within the week that you do or do not accept our original plan. If I do not hear from you, then I will assume we are to go back to our separate plans and will so inform my colleagues and collaborators. I do not wish to get into a discussion about the nomenclature committee. That is now, at least, off because of the patent pressures. Therefore, I need a direct, simple answer from you for the present and immediate future and possible permanent future.

Regards.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

RCG/bj

cc Dr. Barre-Sinoussi
Dr. Chermann
Dr. Wain-Hobson ✓