

Building 37, Room 64
(301) 496-6007

January 10, 1984

Mr. Terry Jemison
U.S. Medicine
Suite 505
2033 M. St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Jemison:

I was disturbed to see the irresponsible writing in your article entitled, "Immune abnormalities common in homosexual men, scientists say", U.S. Medicine, November 15, 1983. Your reference to the award of the Griffuel Prize for my studies of HTLV epidemiology in AIDS is incorrect. The award was not associated with AIDS. The discovery of T-cell growth factor (Interleukin 2) by my co-workers and myself, the subsequent discovery and isolation of the first human leukemia virus (HTLV), our linking it to the cause of an adult T-cell malignancy and our isolation and study of some of the first known human onc genes were the reasons I received the Griffuel Prize. It had nothing to do with AIDS! I am deeply disturbed that you presented a false impression of the actual facts in this article.

Your discussion of Paul Black's letter to the New England Journal of Medicine was lengthy. I do not believe Paul Black was aware of all the data, particularly many of the results from Max Essex' laboratory at the Harvard University School of Public Health, at the time his letter was written. I am not in a position to say that HTLV causes AIDS, and never have claimed this. In fact, I've been very careful in this regard, but from recent developments in my lab. and independent results of others, I can say HTLV is one of the best candidates of the known, characterized viruses, and most of Black's remarks which could be viewed as self-serving, would have been best left where they came from since he has little primary information and very little understanding of HTLV.

Sincerely yours,

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

AHS:tas

cc: Ms. Nancy Tomich

July 1, 1983

score in the tests for HTLV. The validity of our future data is therefore directly contingent on NCI's obtaining the Haitian samples prior to or at the same time as any other HHS agency.

More details are available relative to documentation of the above statements. Your support and prompt action would be appreciated.


Peter J. Fischinger, M.D., Ph.D.

CC: Dr. Brandt
Dr. DeVita