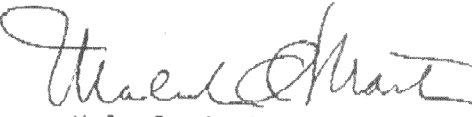




Memorandum

Date November 23, 1984
From Chief, LMM, NIAID
Subject Origin of the AIDS Retrovirus
To FOR THE RECORD

I have just returned from an AIDS retrovirus workshop sponsored by the Pasteur Institute and dealing with AIDS in Europe. While attending the meeting, I learned from presentations by both the Pasteur and Gallo groups that a restriction enzyme polymorphism of the LAV/HTLV III proviral DNA exists; at least two species of viral DNA are present in infected cells. This clears up an enigma we had encountered during the week of November 11, 1984 when we were analyzing the viral DNA present in infected A3.01 cells. The interpretation of our experiments is that two discrete species of proviral DNAs containing an extra HindIII and an extra SacI site (between 6.2 and 6.6 kb) are present in infected cells in a 2:1 ratio. Both proviral DNAs are present in LAV and HTLV III virus stocks. I obtained my pool of the LAV virus on April 13, 1984, following my return to Washington from India via Paris. Since Dr. Gallo's laboratory provided a sample of the HTLV III virus to Montagnier in mid-May, 1984, our results would indicate that the LAV variant was present in the French virus stock at least 1 month earlier (April, 1984).


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