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Dear Charles:

Thank you for your letter of October 10. Regarding the survey of AIDS cells for HTLV sequences and using HTLV probes, I can save you effort, money, and your time which I am sure you don't like to waste. We and others in the U.S. have already surveyed over 200 cases. All but 4 or 5 were negative. However, many of the negative are antibody positive (Essex & Parks' data > 50%), and we and others have isolated the virus many times (20% cases or thereabouts) from AIDS cases, and of course, these were negative for sequences. The problem is that the infected cells are very few in number and are lost with time. On the other hand, it is not yet certain whether HTLV is involved in these diseases vs. an opportunistic infection, a rare virus becoming common by unusual circumstances.

If after having all this you still want the probe, let me know. There are some restrictions on its use.

Kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo

RCG/ng