

Building 37, Room 6A09
301/496-6007

September 20, 1983

Richard B. Pearce, Ph.D.
1424 Page Street
San Francisco, California 94117

Dear Dr. Pearce:

Thank you for your letter of July 30 and your Lancet letter. I think several of your ideas are very interesting and merit testing. I hope the work is being done.

Two points of specific interest to you and to me: (1) HTLV infection of T-cells "turns on" HLA-DR genes. We found this a few years ago -- perhaps pertinent to your first suggestion. (2) HTLV itself (class I) and related retroviruses have been identified in many cases of AIDS. We now have 11 isolates. Therefore, I don't agree with you that your third hypothesis is difficult to test!

Sincerely yours,

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

RCG:clt