



September 15, 1983

During the meeting on "Human T-cell Leukemia Viruses", the undersigned discussed the need to use an internationally agreed nomenclature for these human retroviruses and their associated diseases. It has become clear that the typical form of virus-associated mature T-cell leukemia-lymphoma of adults in Japan, USA, Jamaica and West Indian immigrants in the UK has the same distinctive clinical and pathological features. We propose that this disease should be called adult T-cell leukemia, abbreviated ATLL. It is also clear that a single species of retrovirus is etiologically associated with the disease in all geographic areas studied thus far. We propose to call this virus human T-cell leukemia virus type-1, abbreviated HTLV-1 (or HTLV when no other related virus is under discussion). Individual isolates of HTLV will be named by patients' initials or other subscripts, e.g. HTLV^{CB}, HTLV^{MT2}. Other retroviruses related to but distinct from HTLV-1 may be called HTLV-2 (already described), HTLV-3, etc. The proposal to name the human virus HTLV conforms to previous practice in naming leukemogenic retroviruses according to the host species, e.g., ALV, MLV, FeLV.

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