



INSTITUTE OF HUMAN VIROLOGY

OFFICE OF  
THE DIRECTOR

August 11, 1998

Dr. Abraham Karpas  
Department of Haematology  
Cambridge University  
MRC Centre  
Cambridge, UK

Dear Abraham,

I'm not sure why I write to you because I'm aware that it will do no good. I was sent copies of your letter to a German paper regarding my receiving the Paul Erlich prize. You call me many names, including brutal and trivialize my work. You are, of course entitled to your views, but Abraham for many years it is you who have brutalized and slandered me, Robin Weiss, and if what I heard is correct many others. Your views of me are wrong, both in terms of science history and me personally. Your resentments are fueled by people who with related jealousies want to see evil in every success of another.

Believe me, though you think you know the facts, you have a very incomplete and highly distorted view. Though I guess an intellectual viewpoint would be that I should not care, oddly, I do. I felt that my reaction to you years ago was emotional, unfair, and wrong. I attempted to alter that, and since that day in Cambridge, I believe I have been more than fair and more than tolerant to you. I even wished for normal collegial relations with you but to no avail. You persisted then and you will persist now in making different targets your "bogy-man". Apparently, it serves your needs. What is it, that you think I did that is so wrong? If it is post-Karpas, is it HIV? Do you think you really know the facts? Do you really know that anyone has done anything wrong? Where is the blood test scandal? It is in France not in the U.S.

Try and imagine just for a moment that you are wrong, unfair, and that it might be you who acts uncollegial and sometimes brutal. Try and imagine that in the final period of your life you might contribute and be cordial instead of spewing slander, lies, and hate.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Gallo, MD

RCG:pd