



National Institutes of Health
National Cancer Institute
Bethesda, Maryland 20205
Building 37, Room
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James K. McDougall
Member
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Tumor Biology Program
1124 Columbia Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Jim,

Thank you for your letter. Regarding a probe to screen AIDS DNA samples, a HTLV-I and HTLV-II probe would not be suitable since the AIDS agent HTLV-III is only distantly related, and the homology is insufficient for detection of integrated viral sequences. Our own failure in numerous experiments will attest to that. As for an HTLV-III probe, we are still in the middle of characterizing some clones. It will be awhile before we can distribute them.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

FWS:tas

P.S. Jim, write to me
again in about
6 weeks.
RM