

**Memorandum**

Date November 26, 1985

From Chief, Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology, DTP, DCT, NCI

Subject Information on Experiments with LAV supplied by Dr. Montagnier

To Dr. Lowell Harnison, Science Advisor, OASH

Attached is the information which has been requested on experiments performed with the supernatant samples of "LAV" sent to this laboratory. This information was prepared quickly since we had less than 48 hours notice that it was needed. Time spent on pulling this information together takes away from critical work on the AIDS projects. I would like to see documentation of what the Pasteur group did with materials that they received from us. For example, they claim that the TCGF (II-2) which we supplied to them in January 1983 was only used for practice and was not used in the actual experiments leading to the identification of LAV. I would like to see copies of pages from their notebooks documenting this. We also supplied them (in 1982) with cell lines producing HTLV-I and antibodies to these viruses and other reagents to the viruses. I would like to see documentation of what they did with these. More important on May 18, 1984, Dr. Sarngadharan brought them the H9 cell line producing HTLV-III. Remember, we got a small amount of free virus, not a cell line producing virus. What did they do with our own virus producing line. The virus they claim to grow in the CEM cell line was first done by Dr. Robin Weiss. The French claimed his virus-producing cell line was contaminated with mycoplasma and that they had to establish a new CEM infected cell line. Is this line available to us? Are the records available to judge whether their claim is true? Remember, CEM is a U.S. Government cell line and is, far as I know, always contaminated with mycoplasma. I believe this exchange of information should be a two-way street and that we should not be constantly subject to responding to their accusations, and it is certainly peculiar that this is the way it is being managed.



Robert C. Gallo, M.D.

RCG/es