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 <u>Lancet</u> letter. I think several of your ideas are very interesting and ment testing. I hope the work is being done.

Two points of specific interest to you and to me: (1) HTLV infection of T-cells "terms on" HLA-DR genes. We found this a few years ago -- perhaps pertinent to your first suggestion. (2) HTLV itself (class 1) 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