February 25, 1954

Dr. William L. Pond
Department of Virus & Rickettsial Diseases
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Washington 12, D. C.

Dear Dr. Pond:

In reply to your letter of February 18, 1954, in which you request samples of Type II dengue and sandfly fever mouse-adapted viruses, enclosed you will find two samples each of mouse-adapted Sicilian sandfly fever virus and mouse-adapted New Guinea "C" (Type II) dengue virus. I am sorry to say that none of this material has been lyophilized; therefore, I have taken the liberty of sending it to you in the frozen state.

The sandfly fever virus is suckling mouse passage 35 and is as 20 suckling mouse brain in 50 per cent, heat-inactivated, normal rabbit serum. This material was last titered on 7/6/53. It had an intracerebral titer of approximately $10^{-7.7}$ per .03 of a ml. for 7.5 to 8 gm. Swiss mice. The New Guinea "C" virus is in suckling mouse passage 19. When last titered on 1/22/54, an intracerebral titer of $10^{-8}$ per .03 ml. for 7.5 to 8 gm. Swiss mice, it was a 20 per cent suckling mouse brain suspension in heat-inactivated normal rabbit serum. I would suggest that you continue passaging both viruses in suckling mouse brain.

A second strain of sandfly fever virus, immunologically distinct from Sicilian sandfly fever virus, has also been adapted to suckling mice but we are not yet ready to release this second viral strain. The only reference to the adaptation of the sandfly fever virus to mice is, "Adaptation of sandfly (Pappataci) fever virus to mice with loss of pathogenicity and retention of immunogenicity for man", by Sabin, A.B. and Sweet, B.H., Proceedings of 5th International Congresses of Tropical Medicine and Malaria, Istanbul, 1953 (in press).

Unfortunately, our supply of antisera is quite low. However, I am sending you an immune monkey serum (RH 4004) which had received mouse passage 20 Sicilian sandfly fever virus intracerebrally. This unheated serum had a neutralization index of over 1,000 against the homologous virus. We are now in the process of immunizing monkeys with human unadapted Hawaiian (Type I) and human unadapted New Guinea "C" (Type II) dengue virus. I believe that these sera, which should be of high titer, will be available in a month or so and we shall gladly send them to you if you so desire.
In Dr. Sabin's absence I cannot tell you whether or not he would be willing to carry out the tests for dengue and phlebotomus fever but I shall take up the matter with him upon his return and let you know his decision.

Hoping that these viruses and sera arrive in good shape, I am

Sincerely yours,

Benjamin H. Sweet, Ph. D.
Research Associate

BHS/jcs

Encl: mouse adapted Sicilian sandfly fever virus (2 samples)
mouse adapted New Guinea "C" (Type II) dengue virus (2 samples)