Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
Children's Hospital  
Elland & Bethesda Avenue  
Cincinnati 29, Ohio.

January 31, 1958

Dear Dr. Sabin:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 15. I did not answer it before because I wanted to have some definite news to communicate. During the last few weeks we have been making arrangements for the vaccination program which we are to undertake.

We have 30 nurseries distributed all over the city (México, D.F.) with approximately 4000 children aging from 6 mo to 6 years.

For the control of the children, the following personnel are available: physicians 20, 60 nurses, 8 social workers, 1 medical secretary and 3 laboratory technicians. To all these people we plan to pay a small salary of 50 dlls a month for a 4 month period. This, we believe, is absolutely necessary in order to make them responsible for a proper control of the children and their families during the period of observation.

The children will be fed with 0.1 ml of a 1:10 dilution of each virus in a teaspoon full of milk. Type 1 virus will be administered first, followed by type 3 and then by type 2 at 3 weeks intervals.

In the laboratory I plan to study 500 children. Neutralizing antibodies will be tested in 2 blood samples obtained from these 500 children. One sample prior the vaccination and one 3 weeks after the last dose.

I hope the procedure in feeding the viruses will be comparable with the one some other people may follow, but if you have any suggestion in this matter, would you let me know so that we may change the feeding schedule.

So far as hospital facilities are concerned, if during the study some children get sick as to require special attention, they will be immediately hospitalized for proper studies including autopsies in case some of them die. Of course every child will have his own record, for proper evaluation.

In considering the expenses we are going to make Dr. Gómez and myself have calculated 20,000 dlls as the amount that will satisfy our needs.

In your last letter of January 15, you tell me that Merck, Sharp and Dohme has approved a grant of 10,000 dlls and that I should apply for these funds to Dr. Joseph Ichter. I would like to ask you whether or not it would be advisable for me to apply to the same company for the total of 20000 dlls which Dr. Gómez and I have calculated will need for the study. I would appreciate if you let me know your opinion about it.

Since everything is under way now, we have definitely established February 17, as the day we shall begin... Before writing to Dr. Ichter, I shall wait for your answer, so that everything will be properly coordinated.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours.

Manuel Ramos Alvarez, M.D.