December 28, 1951

Dr. Herbert A. Wenner
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Dear Herb:

I was very much interested in the paper by Chang and yourself in the last number of the Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine. I can't recall your telling me about this before. You may or may not have heard at the various NFIP conferences my mentioning our extensive work on the presence of Lansing antibody in the colostrum of cows and its occurrence in calves and cows from different parts of the country. Accordingly, I was very much interested in your statement that you had carefully considered and ruled out the possibility that the results you obtained with the bovine encephalitis virus were due to laboratory contamination with Lansing virus. It seems to me that the crucial evidence for that lies in your tests on the effect of Lansing antiserum against bovine encephalitis virus which had never been out of eggs or which has had many passages in eggs. Unfortunately, while there is some statement to the effect of neutralization tests in eggs, there are no protocols for this most important aspect of the work.

Furthermore, in talking about the strain adapted to mice, you spoke of difficulty in re-establishing the strain in chick embryos, but it is not clear whether you actually did get the mouse-adapted virus to go in chick embryos and whether after a number of passages in eggs it still had the properties of the mouse-adapted virus as regards its pathogenicity for mice and its capacity for producing paralysis and lesions in the spinal cord indistinguishable from poliomyelitis. I would be very much interested to hear more about this interesting work.

With all good wishes and kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

 Albert B. Sabin, M. D.

P. S. I would naturally be grateful for a reprint when they become available.