Dear Doctor Sabin:  

Thank you for your letter of February 20, 1947 and for your comments. I am glad to know you are back in Cincinnati.

If you examine further the reprint that was sent to you you will note that toxoplasma were demonstrated in two recipients of the first generation, a guinea pig and a rabbit, and in a guinea pig of the third generation. One of the guinea pigs, moreover, had nodular, hyperplastic accretions within omental tissue that yielded unequivocal toxoplasma on smears. I might add that the guinea pigs used in this study were not bought on the open market but were from an inbred stock that we have maintained since 1937. I previously had examined hundreds of kidneys from this stock for leptospiral studies and in experiments designed for production of inclusion bodies. Your doubts are therefore, I believe, ill-founded. Needless to say, the structures designated as toxoplasma by you and by Doctor Pinkerton were not artefacts.

I have no explanation for the results of the serological studies. Several possibilities come to mind, however: 1) your suggestion relating to the lability of the toxoplasma antibody, 2) a different serologic type is represented, 3) the possibility that the antibody level was insufficient to be reflected by your test or 4) natural disappearance.

I know about the Buffalo case, and suggested to Doctor Neter that he write to you or to Doctor Wolf. It would indeed be strange if human carriers for this parasite were not discovered by other than immunologic tests. These two cases, i.e., Rochester and Buffalo, constitute no more than natural evidence in support of the usual host-parasite spectrum which for toxoplasmosis apparently ranges from the infantile form to an asymptomatic type in which evidence of an infection is limited to immunologic findings in mothers, etc.

Perhaps we can continue this discussion at one of the spring meetings. With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jerome T. Syverton