Dear Dr. Salvin,

Please forgive this belated answer to your letter of June 9th. But I only recently returned from a vacation and thus did not receive it until a week or so ago. Since then, I have been very busy substituting for an intern in Pediatrics, here.

I appreciate your kind letter very much. Under separate cover, I sent you a copy of the first paper, and as soon as I receive reprints of my second paper, which appeared very recently, I shall mail a copy of that also.

Since I am still a medical student, the time I can spend in research is necessarily very limited, and irregular. It is only through the kindness of Dr. Samuel Levine that any work has been possible at all. At present, I am working on a study of the immune reactions to Toxoplasma as observed in micrornia cultures. I have worked on and off on this for the past 2 years, and hope to bring it to a reasonably satisfactory conclusion soon. By the way, the vital staining reagent you described recently has been exceedingly useful in this and for diagnostic purposes. I had used a somewhat similar method with Neutral Red for the past 2 years, but since it never occurred to me to add fresh serum (aside from complement), it gave rather inconsistent results. Now, however, it is working beautifully. We have used it in about 15 cases, known to have neutralizing antibodies, by the rabbit test, and found a perfect
correlation with all negative controls also giving negative vital staining reactions.

We spent considerable time in the past year attempting to find out something about the epidemiology of the disease, using the families of 5 recent cases where the mother had not left the city in the 3 years preceding the birth of an infected child. The Dept. of Health was most cooperative. We examined numerous mice, rats, cats, etc. trapped in the apartment, for antibodies and directly for Toxoplasma, but found no evidence of recent or present infection. However, it struck me, that in all these cases, there was a history of numerous mice in the kitchen, which, however, in New York City is not particularly rare.

We have seen some 30 cases of Toxoplasmosis newborns in the past 3 years, but mice they weren't particularly different from the ones described in the literature, we haven't published them. Perhaps, when we have 50, we shall.

Right now, I am attempting to complete a paper on the effect of therapy and immunity on congenital transmission of the infection; it is more or less an extension of the second paper.

In closing, let me say again that I appreciated your letter very much, and would be grateful for any suggestions or criticism on these papers that you might wish to make.

Respectfully yours,

Henry Eichenwald.