23 May 1951

Dear Dr. Sabry,

I was very glad, and extremely interested to hear that the work with the St. Louis hemagglutinins had progressed so far and so well. Your letter implied that perhaps it was ready to be tried for its practicality. If I surmised correctly, may I be so bold as to offer my services in using this antigen in the field? As things appear now, it seems reasonably certain that the long proposed Far East Unit will become reality this summer, with the date of departure tentatively scheduled for 15 June. In Japan, it would prove interesting to check the degree of serological crossing by the whole-blood test that St. Louis immune human serum gives with the St. Louis agent, and simultaneously serve as somewhat of an antigen control with the St. A.

While I realize such an antigen control is not the best, it is, at the present time the only one available amongst the "human" serotypes. The above suggestion assumes of course, that a relatively large volume of S.E. H.A. is available, or could be prepared in a reasonably short time. If this is not the case, or should you feel that "the time is not yet ripe", please do not hesitate to say so.
The past 6 weeks has been given entirely to continued study of the lap tetanus antigen.

In this short period, I am happy to relate, that a simplifid method of preparing T.A. has been developed. If all goes well, this method should replace that of differential centrifugation. These new lap antigens are more practically prepared, are superior to the centrifuged antigens in many respects, and most important of all, they provided the clinching argument for allowing this work to continue in this laboratory. The method has recently been applied to the preparation of RESE. The T.A. antigens with initial success, though considerable work yet remains to be done. While I am on right now, and preliminary data should be available within a week. I should like very much to try it with SKEP before I leave. Since no serum passage material is available here, would it be too much to ask you to send some of the Pasteur or Wunder strain along to me?

In a more personal vein, I am hoping you are taking all the turns you can spare on this wonderful spring evening, to spend with Debbie. She must be quite a young lady by now, and just at the age when they
become most interesting. My own family of small fry try to keep the scales at 68 pounds, of which 57 are contributed by Steve. He's a typically placid rude morph who is unhappy only when his belly is empty, or his diaphragm. We rent a small house and in Maryland now, where Betty and the kids will be when the family has to be separated. She indicated, incidentally, that you are always welcome whenever in your wanderings, you chance to be in Washington.

Again wishing all the best to you and yours, and humbly apologizing for subjecting you to 3 pages of longhand.

Sincerely,

Ed.