January 28, 1955

Dr. Albert B. Sabin
Children's Hospital Res. Foundation
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Sabin:

We, as well as others who are growing monkey tissues in tissue culture on a large scale, have encountered and have isolated a variety of cytopathogenic agents other than poliomyelitis viruses. We have at least three different agents to date; one of which I feel certain is a B virus, another is in some way related to the APC viruses of Heubner, and the third one is entirely different immunologically as well as by the type of cell destruction it causes. The possible B virus strain infects rabbits and produces symptoms and pathology exactly as you have described in your literature. The APC-like virus crosses over in the C.F. test with APC viruses. On small scale observation we found 46 percent of the adult human sera tested to contain C.F. antibody against this virus, which we are temporarily calling W.V.1. The other virus, which we are now referring to as W.V.2, has been isolated on three different occasions (based on specific antiserum identifications).

The above is background information for the request I would like to make of you. If you have available antiserum to known B virus and could spare a small amount with which I could type my virus, I would be very grateful to receive it from you. If our virus then proves to be B virus, we can proceed with preparation of our own antiserum pool using it as the antigen.

I have heard you speak and have read your literature on dengue fever virus. This is of interest from two aspects. One concerns the reading of monkey brain and cord sections on vaccine safety test animals. As you undoubtedly know many very confusing lesions are seen both in normal and vaccine inoculated monkeys, some of which resemble the microscopic pathology seen in poliomyelitis infections. Since dengue fever virus produces such lesions and is quite prevalent in the areas from which these monkeys come, it causes one to wonder if it may not be the cause of this somewhat atypical microscopic pathology which occurs in the absence of any symptoms of disease. The second question in respect to dengue virus is whether or not there might be a chance to pick it up in tissue culture from the tissue of a monkey which might be carrying the virus. I wonder then if I might also ask you for a sample of dengue antiserum with which to type our unknown viruses. I was under the impression that you had done something with dengue in tissue culture, but I have been unable to find it. Am I mistaken?
Several of us from Lilly's attended the recent New York Academy meeting on Poliomyelitis and were pleased with the results of the meeting. We are, and have been interested in your contributions to this field. We would be very pleased to have you come up for a visit some time soon and talk with us more about your work. Dr. Culbertson asked me to mention this to you, but I think he may get in touch with you himself in the near future. We would, of course, take care of all expenses incurred in your visit.

I will be pleased to hear from you at your convenience about the two serum samples which I have requested and also of the prospect of your coming to visit us.

Although I did meet you briefly several years ago on the Ohio State University campus, it will be very nice to become re-acquainted with you.

Sincerely yours,

Robert N. Hull, Ph.D.
In charge, Tissue Culture Res.
Biological Research Division

RNH:ML

Will provide