February 13, 1958

Dr. Albert Sabin
The Children's Hospital
Elland Avenue and Bethesda
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Dear Albert:

Thank you for your letter of 1 February 1958. The content of your first paragraph makes it fully apparent that you are not employing in your laboratory the yeast extract medium for cell culture first described by me at one of the N.F.I.P. Conferences and shortly thereafter in the Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine 88:119, 1955. This medium has since been used as routine in this laboratory and in many other laboratories. Studies by John Ross from this laboratory made it clear that the effect of lactalbumin hydrolysate in combination with tryptose phosphate broth negates the benefits to cellular metabolism derived from yeastolate. I hope it is not too late for you to correct the statement you made at the Conference on Non-Primate Cells "The Yeastolate which Dr. Syverton uses which others have used is a very excellent medium for HeLa cells. I tried to improve our ERK cells that way, and they just killed them right off". As I pointed out in my letter of 28 January, our routine yeast extract medium with rabbit serum or with calf serum supports the growth of ERK-1 as well as HeLa or other cell strain in continuous culture. Decrease in amount of serum to 5 per cent and adjustment of pH as Day 3-4 will permit cells to maintain for approximately 7 days without change of medium.

The copy of the University of Minnesota Hospital Bulletin for 15 December 1957 was sent to you.

I look forward to seeing you within the next several months.

Sincerely,

Jerome T. Syverton