Dr. Albert B. Sabin
Children's Hospital Research Foundation
University of Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Sabin:

I just received your letter of October 18 and I thank you also for your letter of October 16. I am sorry that you had trouble finding the data concerning the effect of ECHO standard antisera on the Cincinnati ECHO viruses. The tests you mentioned have been completed for a long time, and the reason that we did not send them out was, as far as I remember, that the results in homologous neutralization of ECHO 17 virus were so inconsistent. A table with type-written headings and pencilled-written entries about the neutralization of these sera vs. ECHO 7 to 11, 17 to 19 virus must be in one of the yellow folders I left, with a heading "ECHO viruses, mls, data" or the like. At the same place there should be also a table with the effect of ECHO 15 serum on the same viruses (this serum arrived later and was tested separately). These tables (at least the first one) do not include ECHO 22 to 24 virus, because these prototypes were not yet established at the time the tests were done. You will find the pertinent data easily, however, in the paper manuscript about ECHO 22 to 24 virus, Table VI (the D-1 serum designated here as ECHO 6).

As to the homologous ECHO 17 neutralization, you will find the tests tabulated in the notebook under "ECHO 17". You have seen the correspondence I had with Dr. Wenner. In my hands ECHO 17 virus was sometimes very poorly neutralized (even in early readings) by its own antiserum (monkey from Wenner), and in most instances exhibited an extensive break-through against this and other homologous sera. This apparently did not happen in Dr. Wenner's tests. It appears possible, that Dr. Wenner somehow got a mutant (variant) which is more readily neutralized and shows less break-through tendency than our virus, an explanation not unlikely on the basis of our results with ECHO 19 virus (see ECHO 19 paper) and with ECHO 6 (Werner strain). On the other hand, Dr. Wenner did not obtain higher virus titers and his virus reacted only slightly faster than ours. It may be worth trying to "pep up" our ECHO 17 virus, to obtain a prototype which is easier to work with. As I am not sure about the potency of Dr. Wenner's monkey serum, I proposed to use it in a dilution of 1:10 for identification of unknown strains rather than to include it in a serum pool.

You will obtain by surface mail a report I prepared for the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. You may keep it for your record. When the reprints of our ECHO 9 paper come in, I would appreciate to have some 5 or 10 of them. (I considered it as rather "impertinent" from the editor, that he changed back the title to "ECHO type 9 virus disease", which is indeed "cumbersome and unnecessary").

Sincerely yours,

Dr. R. Wigand