Dr. A. E. Sabin  
University of Cincinnati  
College of Medicine  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Albert:

You have recently received a communication from Dr. Dorland Davis, of the United States Public Health Service, informing you of the creation of a nation-wide program the purpose of which is to establish laboratories throughout the country that might function in time of need in relation to problems of biologic warfare defense. I was to communicate with you and invite you to participate in this program for this particular region which covers Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. This invitation was delayed for several reasons, the most important of which was the lack of a clear understanding as to exactly how this program was to function. It was for this reason that on 27 July a meeting of the regional representatives was called and the purposes of the program clarified. It appears now that the program is intended to foster research in problems of biologic warfare defense and only secondarily might the research laboratories be called upon to provide any service. This in essence is the principle on which the program is being established and financed by the Division of Research Grants and Fellowships. The other implications are too detailed to go into at this time. However, there will be another meeting of the regional representatives toward the end of September at which time the program will be further crystallized. Sometime thereafter I anticipate calling a meeting of those individuals in this region, who have been invited to participate, to discuss these purposes further.
24 August 1951

I am somewhat reluctant to ask for an expression of your interest in participating in this program on the basis of the meager information that I have given. I hope, however, that you will be able to attend a meeting at a later time after which it will be possible for you to make such a decision.

Sincerely,

Jonas E. Salk, M. D.