Dr. Albert B. Sabin,
The Children's Hospital Research Foundation,
Department of Pediatrics,
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Sabin:

I am initiating in this laboratory an investigation of the status of the complement-fixation reaction for the diagnosis of lymphocytic choriomeningitis from specimens of human sera. Such a test has been performed in this laboratory for several years without any convincing evidence of a single human case. A few attempts to obtain reacting human sera from other laboratories have failed. I am, therefore, circulating this letter to several laboratories with the following requests:

1. If you have any human sera which have shown reactions with lymphocytic choriomeningitis antigen in complement-fixation tests, I should be grateful if you could spare any quantity greater than 0.5 ml. and preferably as much as 2 ml. for study in this laboratory.

2. It would also be of considerable interest to know what incidence your laboratory has had of reactions of human or other sera with this antigen.

3. I should also like to know what strains of lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus you have and which you could supply if at a later date we make a survey of different strains of the virus.

If we are able to make any conclusions or generalizations regarding the serologic diagnosis of this virus infection, I shall be happy to forward you the information at a later date.

Yours sincerely,

John E. Hotchin, M.D.
Assistant Director

JEH:MD