Col. Bradley W. Prior, MC, USAF  
Executive Secretary  
Armed Forces Epidemiological Board  
Office of the Surgeon General  
Department of the Army  
Washington, D.C. 20315

Dear Colonel Prior:

In reply to the request from the Air Force on Rabies Pre-immunization of Children and Infants, the following information can be provided.

a. No experimental studies have been done on the responses of infants and children to rabies pre-immunization. Studies to date have been performed on veterinary students, veterinarians and those persons, who by virtue of their employment, are exposed to potentially rabid animals.

b. Such studies would be reassuring but I would not give them high priority. Duck embryo vaccine is the preparation presently used for pre-exposure vaccination and dosage regimens have been worked out for this product. However, more purified products are under evaluation in several laboratories and, when they come on the market, they probably will be more potent and may become the preferred items. Therefore, it would be more logical to delay such studies for the time being. It is not likely that adverse reactions will have any effect on the value of these findings, since such reactions have been very rare to the duck embryo vaccine.

c. From information presently available, the same dose as used for adults can be used on children and infants: This is done post-exposure prophylaxis; the adult dose is tolerated by infants without reaction, and the antibody response actually is better than that seen among adults.

Sincerely yours,

Abram C. Benson, M.D.  
Director

ASB:is

cc: Drs. Scherer, Habel  
and Dammin