December 5, 1947

Dear Dr. Sabin:

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis will celebrate its Tenth Anniversary in 1948. To coordinate and evaluate the last decade of progress in the diagnosis and treatment of poliomyelitis, we are sponsoring the First International Poliomyelitis Conference, to be held in New York City at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, July 12 - 17, 1948.

The program as planned by our Advisory Committee will consist of some eleven plenary sessions, with approximately 100 speakers and panel participants. The participants have been selected by the Advisory Committee as being well qualified to discuss clinical poliomyelitis and to interpret current research as it contributes to a better understanding of the disease. The papers and the discussions of the Conference will be edited and published for distribution in late 1948. The various committees for the Conference have planned both scientific exhibits and clinical demonstrations of modern treatment methods.

It is the purpose of this letter to request you, as a guest of the International Poliomyelitis Conference, to join us in making this a most successful meeting. I am asking that you take an active part in the Conference and present a paper on Monday afternoon, July 12th. This paper will be presented as a part of the panel, "The Importance of Poliomyelitis as a World Problem". It is suggested that your presentation cover "the geographic distribution" of the disease. The committee has determined that approximately 45 minutes should be allowed for the presentation of this subject. In order that papers may be translated into French and Spanish it is necessary that we set a deadline of April 1st for submission.

Persons participating in the Conference program will have all expenses paid.

In order that we may complete our program I would hope that I might have an early and a favorable reply.

Sincerely yours, 

Hart E. Van Riper, M.D.
General Chairman

NEW YORK CITY, U. S. A. — JULY 12-17, 1948