Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
Children's Hospital Research Foundation  
E11andand Bethesda Avenues  
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Dear Albert:

I am writing in regard to the agenda for the Conference on Orphan Viruses, to be held in New York City under the sponsorship of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The meeting will be held at the Belmont Plaza Hotel during the afternoon of May 19, and all day on May 20.

Because the amount of published material in this field is so scanty, it is not possible for any one person to summarize the topics listed in the enclosed agenda. Instead, each laboratory is asked to describe briefly their experiences with the orphan viruses. In order to have some degree of uniformity in presentation, the participants are asked when possible to follow the general outline enclosed, covering only those topics which apply to their own investigations. In this way, more time will be available for general discussion.

If a projector other than one which takes standard 3\(\frac{3}{4}\) x 4 inch slides is needed to show the data from your laboratory, please let me know as soon as possible.

I hope that you and Dr. Ramos will take not over 20 minutes between you to present your material on Thursday afternoon, if time permits. Otherwise, you will be scheduled for Friday morning.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

Sincerely yours,

Joseph L. Melnick
Conference on Orphan Viruses
New York, May 19-20, 1955

Topics for Discussion

1. Criteria for inclusion of a virus in the orphan group

2. Growth of orphan viruses in tissue culture
   (a) Monkey kidney
   (b) HeLa
   (c) Other tissue cultures
   (d) Virus-like agents recoverable from uninoculated tissue cultures

3. Serological classification
   (a) Typing by the neutralization test
   (b) Typing by the complement fixation test
   (c) Preparation of immune sera

4. Size of orphan viruses

5. Attempts at experimental infection
   (a) Rodents
   (b) Monkeys
   (c) Chimpanzees

6. Circumstances under which orphan viruses have been isolated
   (a) Clinical manifestations in persons harboring virus
   (b) Isolations from normal individuals
   (c) Seasonal and geographical factors

7. Serological response in patients

8. Antibodies in normal human sera and in gamma globulin

9. Plans for the future
   (a) Repository for orphan viruses, immune sera, and paired sera of patients
   (b) Desired information on new strains
       i) clinical
       ii) epidemiological
       iii) laboratory