October 2nd, 1941

Dear Dr. Sabin:

I am very grateful to you for the generous supply of reprints which have just been received.

We have isolated a "virus" in the course of influenza studies which became manifest in mice following the passage of material from hamsters as well as the wild ferret (Galictis furax) native of the Argentine. While these animals had been inoculated with human throat washings, I am not at all certain that the virus may not have been picked up in the passage animals. I suspected from the nature of the histopathological reactions that it might belong to the pleuro-pneumonia group of microorganisms. However, repeated efforts to cultivate it in serum broth or serum agar media have failed. Efforts to study and identify it are somewhat complicated by its failure to produce an immune response, that is to say, we have not been able to develop any neutralizing antibodies in rabbits after repeated intraperitoneal inoculations. Nor are mice rendered immune to intranasal administration of the virus by repeated intraperitoneal injections. It is quite definitely pneumotropic, and produces no ill effect when administered intraperitoneally or intracerebrally. While it does not usually kill mice in dilutions beyond
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10^{-3} when administered intranasally, it is very highly fatal in lower dilutions and commonly killed within three to four days.

I would be interested in having your opinion as to the likelihood of it belonging to the pleuro-pneumonia group in view of these findings.

Yours sincerely,

R.M. Taylor.

Dr. Albert B. Sabin,
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