Dear Dr. Sabin:

At the request of the Surgeon General, it is my pleasure to invite you to serve as a member of the Enterovirus Committee for the term December 1, 1960 through December 31, 1963. The Enterovirus Committee is being established for advice to the National Cancer Institute in its extramural program of viruses and cancer research.

The task before this Committee on the enteroviruses of man would be to give technical guidance to the staff, continuing encouragement to the research field, and assume responsibility for maintenance of orderly procedures in the characterization and classification of 60 or more of these agents. In view of the increasing trend toward research on the potential tumor viruses of man, this area is certainly one of great urgency.

Among the responsibilities of the Committee we foresee the following:

1. The classification and nomenclature of the enteroviruses, and the setting up of criteria for admission of any new agent proposed for inclusion in this group of viruses.

2. The confirmation of the properties of any proposed new virus and reevaluation of admitted types in terms of new standards accepted by the Committee.

3. Specific recommendations as to the development, production, standardization, and distribution of viral typing reagents, both prototype viruses and antisera.

4. Certification of those reagents.

5. Maintenance of appropriate liaison with international or foreign groups with the same or related responsibilities.

6. Technical guidance to the Viruses and Cancer Program with regard to research needs in the enteroviruses, especially as they may relate to cancer research:

   a. Improvement in accuracy, sensitivity, and speed of viral isolation and identification techniques.
b. Development of additional tests for revealing or characterizing viral activity in man or other hosts, normal or conditioned, and in mammalian cell or egg culture.

c. Exploration of such problems in the virology of enteroviruses as morphology, infectivity, latency, inhibition and interference, cell-virus interaction, host response, viral antigenicity and antibody production, and epidemiology (etiology and transmission).

7. Review of the scientific merit of formal contract proposals concerned with the enteroviruses.

8. Recommendations to the Project Officer serving to guide and judge performance under any National Institutes of Health contracts concerned with the enteroviruses.

Meetings of the Committee are held three times a year and compensation is allowable at the rate of $50 per day for time spent at meetings. Members also receive transportation costs, plus $12 a day in lieu of actual expenses.

We are planning to hold the initial meeting of this Committee in New York City on December 8-9, 1960, and understand that you have already indicated your willingness to attend.

In spite of the many demands on your time, we should be particularly grateful to you for agreeing to advise us on our program in viruses and cancer research, specifically with relation to the enteroviruses. I believe you will agree that the importance of this responsibility will entail a considerable contribution of your time and talent but clearly in an area of great need and urgency.

We shall be most pleased if you are able to accept.

Sincerely yours,

James A. Shannon, M. D.
Director

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