Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
The Children's Hospital  
Research Foundation  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Sabin:

When the research grants program of the National Institutes of Health was initiated in 1946, it was realized that the National Advisory Health Council would require the assistance of technically qualified experts in many fields of research. For this reason and in accordance with best estimates of needs at that time twenty study sections were established. You are as familiar as I with the highly gratifying success of the study section plan of operation; however, you are also probably just as aware as I that many desirable changes could be made now in the number and type of sections.

For several months a study has been carried on as to proper reorganization of study sections that would permit adequate review of all applications for Public Health Service research grants. The rapid growth of the research grant programs of the National Heart Institute and of the National Cancer Institute has indicated the need for effecting such reorganization as early as possible. After careful consideration of the needs of the various Institutes now served and with due regard for the workload of the various sections, the following changes are being made effective immediately:

1. Establish a study section on Arthritis and Rheumatism;
2. Establish a study section on Morphology and Genetics;
3. Establish a study section on Experimental Therapeutics;
4. Merge the Tropical Diseases and Malaria Study Sections into the Tropical Medicine Study Section;
5. Disband the Antibiotics Study Section, transferring some members to the Experimental Therapeutics Study Section;
6. Disband the Syphilis Study Section, transferring some members to the Experimental Therapeutics Study Section;
7. Disband the Tuberculosis Study Section, transferring some members to the Experimental Therapeutics Study Section;
8. Disband the Radiobiology Study Section;
9. Disband the Gerontology Study Section.

I realize that there are some good reasons for continuing the Malaria Study Section and the Tropical Diseases Study Section as separate groups; on the other hand, there seem to be better reasons to merge the sections.
Dr. Albert B. Sabin

June 30, 1949

I am confident that none of the interests in this broad field need be sacrificed in accomplishing this change. All non-government members of both sections are being invited to serve their current appointments on the new section. Determination as to the chairman of the combined section will be made shortly and notification sent to you. The first meeting of the Tropical Medicine Study Section has been scheduled for September 21, 1949, in Room 1037, Building T-6, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your invaluable contribution to the research grants program as a member of the Tropical Diseases Study Section.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Price, M.D., Dr. P.H.
Chief, Division of Research
Grants and Fellowships