March 11, 1963

TO: Members of Panel of Entero- and Related Viruses

Dr. Henry Gelfand  
Dr. W. McD. Hammon  
Dr. Robert J. Huebner

FROM: Joseph L. Melnick

1. **Change name of panel.**
   At the meeting held on March 7, those members present discussed the desirability of changing our name to Panel for Picornaviruses. As you recall we almost took this action at our October meeting, but felt that it was better to wait and have "picornavirus" introduced and used first. The name has now been accepted and is now being used internationally.

   Dr. Chanock who sat in on our meeting expressed the view that it was our new name of Panel on Entero- and Related Viruses which irritated Christopher Andrews. By placing rhinoviruses in the "related" group, it has appeared to some that we are deliberately circumventing the Montreal agreement. It was the consensus of those panel members present at the March 7 meeting (Huebner, Wenner, Hammon, Melnick) that we change our name to Panel on Picornaviruses, provided that the 3 absent members (Gelfand, Rosen and Sabin) agree.

   If we do change our name it would seem wiser to do it now, before the name Panel for Entero- and Related Viruses appears in print.

2. **New members.**
   It was also suggested that if we agree to the new name we add to the panel some additional active workers in the field. The following have been suggested: Chanock, Hamre, Karzon, Lennette (or Schmidt). While we as a Panel are not allowed to appoint members, we can informally suggest a number of suitable investigators from whom the NIAID may select new members. Let me know if you have additional suggestions, and comments on those listed.

3. **Statement of committee announcing the establishment of new types.**
   The statement rejected by Virology was discussed. The Chairman was asked to write a new statement in which recognition of the acid test as a possible means for distinguishing rhino- from enteroviruses would be made. If this test stands up, then it may be unnecessary to have an unclassified picornavirus subgroup. Chanock, Tyrrell, Hilleman, et al., have tested hundreds of strains with no inconsistency except for echovirus 28 (which might well become rhinovirus type 1.) New antigenic types, if stable to pH 3-5, would be placed in the poliovirus, Coxsackie virus, or
echovirus subgroup, depending upon the known properties of the prototype and related strains at the time it was established as a new type. Thus the JV-10 (enterovirus 59) becomes the prototype strain of echovirus 29, and the Johnson-Rosen agents are recognized as 5 new picornavirus types, probably rhinoviruses, to be given type numbers in the near future. In the meantime they will be known as the Johnson-Rosen prototype rhinoviruses.

Three new echovirus types, 30-33, were accepted by the Panel. These are:

Echovirus 30. Prototype strain, Bastianni (broader antigen) with recognition of Frater being first member known.

Echovirus 31. Prototype strain, Caldwell
Echovirus 32. Prototype strain, PR-10

Tyrrell and Chanock are now preparing a brief "Definition of Rhinovirus". Chanock agreed that their statement and our statement be submitted to appear in the same issue of Science. You will receive a copy of their statement as soon as it is ready. In the meantime, I am enclosing a preliminary draft of our statement for your comments.

4. Please mail the enclosed card back to me within a couple of days of receiving this letter.
Classification of New Picornaviruses

The small, ether-insensitive viruses containing RNA cores were recently brought together as the Picornavirus Group by an international body of virologists meeting in Montreal at the International Congress on Microbiology (1). In keeping with that action, the Committee on Enteroviruses (2) has been renamed the Panel on Picornaviruses, operating under the Board for Virus Reference Reagents, NIAID, NIH.

The human picornaviruses are divided into the enteroviruses (poliovirus, Coxsackievirus and echovirus subgroups) and the rhinoviruses. The definition of the enteroviruses has recently been brought up to date (3), and in the accompanying article the same is done for the rhinoviruses (4).

The panel has recently reviewed the work on candidate prototypes and accepted nine as new picornavirus types. Four of these are echovirus types 29-32. Five are acid-labile (pH 3-5) and are considered as new rhinovirus types. It is planned that they will be assigned rhinovirus type numbers through the international mechanism now in operation through the World Health Organization Reference Laboratories for Respiratory and Enteroviruses.

The new viruses that are now recognized are:

Echovirus type 29, prototype strain, JV-10 (5)
  "  " 30, "  "  Bastianni (6)*
  "  " 31, "  "  Caldwell (11)**
  "  " 32, "  "  PR-10 (9)

Rhinovirus types (numbers to be assigned),
  prototype strain 353 (14)
  "  " 1059 (14)
  "  " 1734 (14)
  "  " 11757 (14)
  "  " 33342 (14)

These new viruses were isolated by the investigators cited above, who showed that each fulfilled all the criteria of a human picornavirus (1, 3, 4) but was distinct antigenically from all previously known types. As indicated four of the prototype viruses (and related strains presently known) had the properties of echoviruses and five those of rhinoviruses.

*The related Frater strain (7) was first recognized as a new type, but the Bastianni strain was selected as the prototype strain because of its broader antigenicity. Other candidate strains which were typed as echovirus-30 included Price (8), PR-17 (9) and Giles (10).

**Related strains include the Copenhagen 4331-s strain (12) and the California strains (13).
The Panel also wishes to note that primary reference antisera for the first 59 enteroviruses, including echovirus 29, are now or will soon be available to qualified research laboratories in small quantities for reference purposes. Specific announcement regarding the availability of these sera will be made by the National Institute of Health in the very near future.

Panel for Picornaviruses

Joseph L. Melnick (Chairman)
Henry Gelfand
W. McD. Hammon
Robert J. Huebner
Leon Rosen
Albert B. Sabin
Herbert A. Wenner
References and Notes


2. Formerly of the National Foundation, and then of the National Cancer Institute, and most recently of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH.


5. Supplied by Leon Rosen.


12. Supplied by Herdis von Magnus.
