Dr. Joseph L. Melnick  
Department of Virology and  
Epidemiology  
Baylor University College of Medicine  
Texas Medical Center  
Houston 25, Texas

February 25, 1963

Dear Doctor Melnick:

This is in response to your communication of February 4th. I am in full  
agreement with Dr. Hanon's letter of February 11th. As an added comment on  
the existing state of efficiency of the "WHO Respiratory Reference Laboratory"  
I would like to point out that the Salisbury Laboratory has been unable or  
unwilling to send out for more than one year certified seed virus of their  
own "rhinovirus" strains. The first shipment of these strains to my labora-  
tory was lost (through no fault of mine) at the end of 1961. After sending  
a number of requests I received a letter dated January 23, 1963 which says  
that the liquid dilutions are still not finished! I think that we all  
realize that it takes more than a sign on the door to make an "International  
Center". I think that it is also obvious that it will be some time before  
the work of the American Panel can be taken over on an international basis.

I do not see any point in the Panel replying to Dr. Andrenes. As a  
matter of fact I concluded long ago that reason was unlikely to change  
either Dr. Andrenes' attitudes or actions. It was with this in mind that  
I voted in my letter of November 23, 1962 against sending him a copy of our  
proposed statement.

I think our statement should be published and I suggest trying "Science",  
the "American Journal of Public Health", and the "Journal of Bacteriology"  
in that order. The following statement will appear in the paper by Johnson  
and Rosen which is scheduled for the January, 1963 issue of the American  
Journal of Hygiene:

"Since this manuscript was submitted, an International Committee on  
Virus Nomenclature has proposed the name Picornavirus for all viruses having  
the fundamental properties described for the present agents. The American  
Committee on Enteroviruses has reviewed the protocols for the five new  
strains and has designated them as Picornaviruses unclassified, types  
2-6 (U.S.). Type 1 (U.S.) is proposed for Enterovirus 29."
I think that we have waited long enough.

Incidentally, we also are pursuing the magic "acid" test and should have some data to report before too long.

Sincerely,

Leon Rosen, M.D.
Pacific Research Section
National Institute of Allergy
and Infectious Diseases

cc: Dr. Harry Gelfand
    Dr. V. McD. Hannon
    Dr. Robert J. Huegner
    Dr. Albert E. Sadin
    Dr. Herbert A. Wehner
    Dr. Colvin Gibson

LR:HC