Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
Department of Pediatrics  
Children's Hospital Research Foundation  
Cincinnati, Ohio  

Dear Dr. Sabin:  

Since you are or have been a recipient of a grant from the National Cancer Institute supporting research in the viruses and cancer field we are interested in trying to find out your needs with regard to the use of human tissue material.

At the November, 1960, meeting of the National Advisory Cancer Council, the Council recommended "to arrange at one to five hospitals or medical centers for the collection, preservation and distribution of human tissues, including blood, both neoplastic and normal, properly processed and diagnosed; grant or contract to be used, if necessary, to accomplish this. (Such material would be made available for virus-cancer studies, primarily to grantees of the National Cancer Institute)."

At present we are forming a technical advisory committee in the area of human material supply.

To help this group formulate a specific program we need to know the following:

1. Do you now need or would you use the following in your research if it is available --
   
a. Adult malignant tissue? [ ]
   b. Adult "normal" tissue? [ ]
   c. Embryonic normal tissue? [ ]

2. If malignant tissue would be used, what pathologic diagnostic categories would you require? Would case histories be necessary in addition to pathologic diagnosis?

3. What amounts (gms., wet weight) would be needed in each category?
4. How often would these quantities be desired?

5. Could material be frozen in dry ice or must it be shipped in water ice?

6. Would you be willing to (a) furnish reports on the use to which it was put? and (b) whether it was satisfactory as to condition when received?

7. If you do not plan to use such tissue in the near future do you wish to be kept informed of progress in this area of supply?

8. Would you undertake to find out local regulations governing use and shipment of human tissue and relay them to the staff?

9. Do you have any special requirements which the Committee should consider in attempting to be of service to you?

10. Have you attempted to secure such material locally?

At present it is projected that a pilot scale program might start operation around September 1, 1961, and be scaled up as need and experience dictates. Distribution mechanisms and eligibility for receipt of specimens will be decided by the proposed technical committee and will probably hinge upon review of grant applications (either original or supplemental) by the conventional study section mechanism.

With these tentative guidelines proposed, your answers to the above questions and any comments you care to make will be greatly appreciated.

The extent to which we can be of service to you will depend upon the clear definition of your needs and suggestions as to what we can do to help.

It is not the intention of this program to interfere with existing procurement mechanisms or to publicize its activity. As a result of a preliminary study it has been found that a real need...
exists for a fair number of grantees. If you have successfully solved these problems we would like to profit from your experience and solicit your cooperation in relating your experiences to us.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Stevenson, Ph.D.
Chief, Cell Culture Program
Viruses and Cancer Program
National Cancer Institute