

MERCK INSTITUTE
FOR
THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH
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AUG 26 1968

MAURICE R. HILLEMANN, Ph. D., D. Sc.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 23, 1968

Dr. Albert B. Sabin
Professor
Research Pediatrics
Children's Hospital Research Foundation
Elland and Bethesda Avenues
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

Dear Albert:

We have recently completed a three-year follow-up to ascertain the durability of the induced immunity following Jeryl Lynn strain live attenuated mumps virus vaccine. The studies consisted of observations for persistence of antibody following vaccination in institutions where natural mumps has not occurred in the intervening period and for persistence of vaccination-induced antibody compared with antibody following natural mumps among children in a Philadelphia suburban community. Finally, observations were made of persistence of protective immunity against natural mumps afforded by the vaccine as observed among children in families and schools through the third mumps year.

The sum of the situation is that vaccine-stimulated neutralizing antibody against mumps is remarkably persistent and resembles that following natural mumps and following Enders' measles vaccine. Immunity against natural mumps challenge also persists.

Enclosed is a manuscript which presents the data in support of these conclusions. We feel that they may be of interest to you.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,



Maurice R. Hilleman, Ph.D.
Director
Virus & Cell Biology Research

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Enclosure