Department of HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE • Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health • Bethesda 14, Md.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND METABOLIC DISEASES
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL HEART INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH
NATIONAL MICROBIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES AND BLINDNESS
THE CLINICAL CENTER
DIVISION OF RESEARCH GRANTS

November 27, 1956

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

Dear Albert:

I have told Dr. Murray of our discussions last Friday and have shown him the materials you gave me. Your counsel will be of considerable help in any future consideration of avirulent vaccines.

The matter of determining the comparative antigenicity of your avirulent strains of poliovirus by complement fixation was also explored. Dr. Murray feels that any collaborative effort of this kind is of mutual advantage.

As a start, what is your reaction to the following scheme? If you could send us between 300 and 500 ml of each monovalent pool of known titer together with specific antisera, preferably monkey, we would grid titrate this material by complement fixation. We would be inclined to start with the Type II and test it in 3 fractions -- crude, 50x concentrated, and the same restored to original concentration in Hank's solution. For comparison, we will include MEF_1 antigens treated in the same fashion. The Types I and III strains could then be tested in the same manner.

Depending upon the findings here, your strains and the DBS "standard" strains would then be grid titrated against other specific animal antisera as well as a spectrum of human sera (post-vaccination with formalinized vaccine, with avirulent vaccine, convalescents from paralytic poliomyelitis).

Dr. Hare and I can undertake this at any time it is convenient to you and we shall await your opinions on this matter.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Joel Warren, Ph.D.
Division of Biologics Standards

ABS -
Excuse the "officialese" language; the copy for the file has to record this way - JW