

*Hammon*

THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PITTSBURGH 13, PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF  
EPIDEMIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

February 3, 1951


Dr. Albert B. Sabin  
The Children's Hospital Research Foundation  
Elland Avenue & Bethesda  
Cincinnati 29, Ohio

Dear Albert,

I have just gone over my card file on cases of St. Louis encephalitis from Kern County, California for the past several years and find rather disappointing results, although we have not dug out the serum specimens yet to determine the amount of serum present. I had forgotten that during the last two or three years there had been a very low incidence of the disease, and we have only one or two cases each of those years. Previous to that we had a larger number of cases, but I considered them as having been held for such a long period of time that most of the sera were discarded in California. I am, therefore, not very optimistic about being able to furnish you with very much in the way of paired sera from these cases. I shall let you know definitely as soon as we get the specimens out and after we have taken out the amount we need for checking them against Jap B and St. Louis simultaneously. However, I have this suggestion to make which might be helpful. There has been a very high incidence of the disease in California during the past summer, and all of the specimens have been tested by Ed Lennette at the California State Department of Public Health. I would suggest that you write to Ed in the event that he might have a number of pairs to which he might give you access. Bill Reeves has nothing since all the clinical material from Kern County, our old study area, is now being sent to Ed Lennette.

May I remind you that we hope we can get from your own body about 50 cc of serum which we can use in the Jap B tests. This is to be put up in 5 or 10 cc ampoules and frozen. We are all ready to go on this if you can help us out. Thanks very much.

Very sincerely yours,



W. McD. Hammon, M.D.  
Head of Department

H/j