

THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

66TH STREET AND YORK AVENUE
NEW YORK

February 7, 1942.

Dear Sabin:

I have your letter of January 30th and am glad to know that you received the St. Louis and Japanese encephalitis strains in good condition. Doctor Webster said that you might be interested in knowing the amount of time necessary to inactivate these viruses by ultraviolet light. While I have not done a great deal on the subject, I have found that 10 per cent suspensions of either virus, centrifuged in an angle head centrifuge at 5,000 r.p.m. for 1 hour, are inactivated following 40 minutes' exposure to ultraviolet light, at least in our special setup. The emulsions are then no longer virulent but they retain their complement-fixing properties.

I have tested the serum from the patient named [REDACTED] for complement-fixing antibodies against Eastern and Western equine encephalomyelitis, St. Louis encephalitis, and lymphocytic choriomeningitis. The results were negative in every case except with lymphocytic choriomeningitis. With this antigen the undiluted serum gave a very weak reaction (1 plus). Not having had wide experience with the complement-fixation test in instances of lymphocytic choriomeningitis, I should not attach significance to this result unless it were repeated with subsequent samples, or the clinical picture suggests lymphocytic choriomeningitis.

I am sending a report of my findings on this serum to Doctor Aring.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Casals

J. Casals

Doctor Albert B. Sabin,
The Children's Hospital
Research Foundation,
Elland Avenue and Bethesda,
Cincinnati, Ohio.