December 27, 1974

Dr. P.C. Powell
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Houghton, Huntingdon
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Great Britain

Dear Dr. Powell,

Your article in the September 6 Nature is of great interest to us. We have purified a set of nucleotide sequences complementary to that portion of the avian sarcoma virus genome which is deleted in transformation defective strains. Using these sequences in molecular hybridization, we found that the represented portion of the ASV genome is present in DNA of several normal avian species but not transcribed into RNA. We are now studying the expression of these putative "transforming" genes in a variety of materials and are eager to analyse cells transformed by Marek's Disease virus. The cells described by you appear to be ideal for our purposes. Would you be willing either to give us a sample to propagate or to join us in a more extensive collaborative effort by growing the cells for us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Michael Bishop, M.D.
Professor of Microbiology

JMB/es