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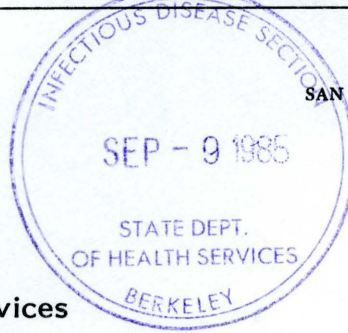


SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

AIDS CLINICAL RESEARCH CENTER
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94143

30 August 1985



Donald P. Francis, M.D.
Department of Health Services
2151 Berkeley Way
Berkeley, California 94704

Re: HTLV-III/LAV viral cultures

Dear Don:

At the present time the only resource we have to obtain viral cultures is from Dr. Jay Levy here at UCSF. While Dr. Levy will perform cultures for us, he is primarily a research lab and has been funded to pursue projects to elucidate the nature and pathophysiology of the AIDS retrovirus. To dilute his activity by urging him to perform viral cultures so that we can do clinical trials is contrary to the mandate for which he was funded by the State of California and lessens his effectiveness in achieving his primary mission.

At present I am collaborating with investigators on the east coast and we are anxious to enroll fifteen patients in an exciting drug treatment trial. Unfortunately, the only laboratory able to perform these tests for me is a service lab at the University of Nebraska. This laboratory can do two cultures a week. Clearly this bottleneck will delay clinical trials on this drug for at least four months (two a week for fifteen weeks to find fifteen patients equals four months). If this bottleneck did not exist we could test all thirty patients in the next ten days and have this treatment trial completed in the next two months.

Numerous drugs will come to market very quickly and I would estimate that I could use the services of a lab to do HTLV-III/LAV cultures on at least ten patients a week for the next two years.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Joan Drucker in the Virology Section at Burroughs Wellcome, one of the companies which is actively searching for an anti-viral for HTLV-III/LAV. Dr. Drucker may join me in wanting to write to you to join me in urging that the State of California rapidly develop laboratories to culture this virus so that we can undertake more extensive clinical trials.

Sincerely yours,

Marcus A. Conant, M.D.
Professor of Dermatology

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cc: Joan Drucker, M.D.