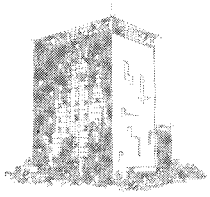
AREA CODE 608
PHONE 262-2177



McARDLE LABORATORY
FOR CANCER RESEARCH
MEDICAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

January 26, 1979

Dr. Harold Varmus
Imperial Cancer Research Funds Laboratory
P. O. Box 123
Lincoln Fields, London WC2A 3PX
ENGLAND

Dear Harold:

Thanks for your manuscript. It was very interesting, even if it was a little hard to follow without more detailed maps.

It is quite clear from this work and that Susan Astrin published that there is variability in endogenous sequences. The MuLV work says the same. Therefore, I agree that there has been some recent infection of the germ line. The question is whether this infection is from external viruses or from an original endogenous virus. Experimentally, that is whether or not there is a common primary unit which then is amplified and varied. The original primary unit might only vary as much as cellular nucleotide sequences. It would be the secondary endogenous sequences that would be more variable.

The major evidence against the existence of a primary endogenous sequence in the mice is the negative liver. I would like to see further description of that animal and more like it before drawing such a strong conclusion.

Keep up the good work. Perhaps I will see you at Cold Spring Harbor or at London this summer. Tell Robin that I am planning to come to the meeting in July. I just saw that they did not put the country in the address on the letter, so he may never get it.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Howard

Howard M. Temin

HMT:kjd