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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Microbiology
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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94143

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David W. Kingsbury, M.D.
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
332 North Lauderdale, P.O. Box 318
Memphis, TN 38101

Dear David:

Many thanks for your insightful letter. The only place where you are less than a seer is in the matter of the revision of RNA Tumor Viruses. Yes, we are really at it again, spurred on by the prospect of a two-volume paperback edition with massive supplements to existing chapters, plus a very lengthy appendix of maps and sequences. In fact, I just received Natalie's (relatively brief) update to Chapter 2.

You have correctly sensed from my avoidance behavior that my heart is not in this job--at least in the matter of putting together the Intervirolgy piece you keep requesting. Taxonomy is not at the bottom of my list when I can see the substantive issues more clearly; for example, I was deeply involved in working out the nomenclature for onc genes. But I have taken your suggestions to heart, and I have written to Natalie Teich to see whether she would be willing to assume this position in my stead--or, at the least, take responsibility for preparing the Intervirolgy piece you seek.

I'll be back in touch soon.

With best regards,

Harold E. Varmus, M.D.
American Cancer Society
Research Professor

Enclosure

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