



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTER

FOR REFERENCE AND TRAINING IN

REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

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Prof. Mathew Meselson,
Dept of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
7 Divinity Avenue,
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

Dear Mathew & Jeanne,

Thank you for the colour copies of the Science article. After all your problems with Nature, it seems to have come out well and with suitable international notice. Many congratulations.

Please excuse my delay in replying to your previous communication of last year concerning costs involved. I sent a message by email but I am never certain if you now get email. Anyway, the short answer is that my research slush fund is blank and therefore I cannot forward anything until it is refilled. Hopefully, that will happen soon. Between emailing yourself and today, life has been full which is my poor excuse for not replying sooner. I had to go to Buenos Aires to participate in the initial planning for a hemispheric brucellosis eradication plan. On the way home I stopped off to see my old friend Godfrey Webster in central Minas Gerais, only to be met at the Belo Horizonte airport by one of his people with Godfrey's apologies for not meeting me personally but he had just been rescued from under his tractor. It had clearly done him no good. As I told him myself, he was very fortunate that I was not on his fazenda on a professional basis, because I would have certainly have had to put him down. So I have been involved it that and since I got back related activities, mobilising his friends from Seattle to Rome. And just before Christmas my daughter had to go into hospital. She is now up and very much about. As you can appreciate, I have been distracted.

As to the DNA sequencing, we have found that all the eleven dead bacteraemic Russians that we tested died from the same batch of *B.anthraxis*. We are now sorting out of what. Until the latter is done, we must hold on to what we have for obvious reasons as there is only a very limited quantity of the original material. However, you are on the list for when we are done. Peter Turnbull is stepping down from being the Chairman of the WHO Anthrax Working Group, and has asked me to take over from him. It is going to be a busy year.

With best wishes to you both,

Yours sincerely,

Martin Hugh-Jones