

Frederick, Maryland
15 January, 1998

Dear Matthew -

I apologize for the tardiness of my response to your letter of 21 Oct 97 but let me now wish you a very productive and Happy New Year.

Enclosed is a Fort Detrick news article describing a 3 day visit at Fort Detrick, by four Russian scientists. I attended Dr Stepanov's talk on anthrax vaccines but it was merely a verbal repeat of the published article in J. Biotech. of which you had sent me a copy. However, this subject plus your letter indicating collaborative research with Collier - Pomerantsev on live vaccine anthrax strains is of great interest to me. I strongly feel that USAMRIID is not exerting a major effort to develop a much more protective against anthrax (e.g. live vaccine type) than the current available PA strain.

I expressed my concern to Col Friedlander (Chief, Biol Div) and he stated you and Colonel Franz are in relatively frequent communication on the anthrax problem. I certainly hope so. I re-emphasized to Friedlander that just prior to my retirement in 1983, I had preliminary evidence indicating that the Sterne live vaccine (licensed only for veterinary use in the USA) significantly protected g. pigs against aerosol challenge with virulent B. anthracis vs the rather moderate protection afforded g. pigs administered our standard PA vaccine. So one must convince Col Franz that the effectiveness of any developed vaccine must be realistically evaluated against aerosol challenge. If USA troops are exposed to BW it will be via the respiratory tract and not by SC or IM injections.

Re the Tom Collins manuscript. I don't see much elucidation, if any, on the problem of LD_{50} animal estimates. Bud Larson was not very complimentary about Collins' remarks and conclusions. Bud stated that Collins must only be involved in the physical science as Collins didn't or couldn't comprehend the variability inherent in responses of biological material used for experimentation. Both Bud and I also were amused at Collins' review on the use of the Reed-Muench method for estimating dose-response data. If you wish to hear more specific comments re Collins' paper from Larson please call them at (301) 462-3070. On the next time you visit Detrick, let me know and Bud and I will gladly come down to talk with you.

With warm regards -
Sincerely
Joe