UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Microbiology
and Immunology

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94143

May 24, 1983

Dear Colleague:

My colleagues and I have discovered a form of gene amplification that may be specific to neuroblastomas. The amplified DNA appears to contain a previously unidentified member of the oncogene family. At the least, we may have found a molecular marker for neuroblastoma that is easy to detect and characterize. It is also possible that we are looking at one of the mechanistic factors in the tumor. Most of our work to date has been performed with cell lines, although we have also identified the amplification in one tumor taken from a patient prior to chemotherapy.

In order to extend our findings and to further assess their significance, we must look at more tumors from patients. We would be deeply grateful if you could notify us when samples of either primary or metastatic neuroblastoma could be obtained from surgery. If you happen to encounter "neuroblastoma in situ" at autopsy or tumors that have "regressed" by differentiation to ganglioneuromas or ganglioneurofibromas, these would be extremely valuable. We would make any necessary arrangements for transporting the sample to our laboratory; we ask only for notice that the samples might be available. I know that requests of this nature are impositions, and I would be very grateful for any assistance you can give us. I have enclosed a copy of the first manuscript describing our findings. If I can provide any further information, please give me a call at 415-666-3211. To notify us of potential materials, you can call me, Dr. Manfred Schwab (415-666-4627) or Dr. Harold Varmus (415-666-2824).

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

J. Michael Bishop, M.D.
Professor

JMB/jm
Enclosure