Institut Pasteur
25, RUE DU DOCTEUR ROUX
(XVe Arrond^t)
Téléphone : 566 - 58-00

Paris, le 12. XII 1973

Dear Temin,

Ribodeoxyvirus

with kind regards

Yours sincerely

A. Dulbecco

I receive today in Banyuls-sur-Mer (66650)
your letter of October 12th. As I have no
typewriter I am obliged to answer in manuscript
and do hope that my handwriting will not pose
too difficult problems. I shall try to answer
the different points raised in your letter.
Of course the use of sigla in a generic name
is forbidden by the rule. A rule which
a number of virologists have not accepted.
They continue to use sigla or hybrids of
words and of sigla. In doing so they hope
to succeed in imposing names which
violate the rule, because these names will been
in use long enough... Nothing can be done
against this oblique procedure which shows
a total disrepect of the law and nonetheless
total lack of discipline.
Why have rule if they are only good to be
transgressed?

I think that the rule concerning sigla
ght be rescinded. This would be regrettable.
. What shall we do when Chinese or
ungarians or Pâtâgons will propose
gla based on their own language?
or a nomenclature, an international nomenclature,
cannot be based only on English words.
ow the monster Oncorna. You are
king me to propose substitutes.
ncoribovirus would be suitable. And
why not more simply Oncovirus.
of course a type space should be designated).
far as I know all DNA oncogenic viruses
re named (all known viruses) so there
an be no confusion.

x

ence I have launched the ICNV I have
always had the impression that a number
virologists ignore what a nomenclature is.

Also ignore the basis of systematics and often confuse nomenclature with systematics. I have written enough articles on the subject and have resigned from the ICNV, finding painting more rewarding that unpleasant and useless discussions. I would be pleased to answer any other questions (shall be back in Paris next week).

With kind regards

Sincerely yours

André Lewoll

P.S. Please feel free to circulate this letter to all it may concern