

January 10, 1947

Medical Director John F. Mahoney
Staten Island V. D. Research Laboratory
U. S. Marine Hospital
Staten Island 4, New York

Dear Dr. Mahoney:

There is a question of policy which was arisen upon which we should like your opinion. The serologist of the Sanidad Publica has been most interested in working with us and in getting training both for himself and for his assistant so that they will do standard tests in the accepted fashion. They have been spending time with us to learn what they could, and the other day Dr. Aguilar, the chief of the division, gave us a sample of Kahn antigen used currently by their Laboratory. In comparative tests with our antigen, Mr. Portney found that their antigen was less sensitive than ours. The serologist then made the request that Mr. Portney spend several hours a weeks with them to correct the errors in their technique. That could be done easily, and we are very happy to do it for them, however, both Mr. Portney and I feel that it would be to our advantage for them to start using our own Kahn antigen. The combination of a properly standardized antigen and sufficient training in techniques would help to reduce the incidence of discrepancies between the two laboratories which are in great evidence thus far. We do not want to find ourselves in the embarrassing position of having samples sent to us because their own laboratory cannot do the work properly.

The laboratory runs some one hundred to two hundred tests per day. Should they request about 500 cc of antigen for a six month period would it be possible for Staten Island to furnish that to the Guatemalan Public Health Service? We have discussed the matter with the Chief of their Section and he would like to make his own antigen, but that seems impossible at present, thus we should like to furnish it to him until such time as he can be taught to manufacture it.

Sincerely yours,

John C. Cutler
S.A. Surgeon, USPHS

Respectfully forwarded:

Joseph S. Spoto
Chief, Caribbean Sector