



July 12, 1987

Dear Paul:

It is very nice to hear from you again. No, I have not received any specimens from patients with a Herxheimer reaction. We have continued with work on the synovial fluid and now human plasma phospholipases; the results at this time are extremely interesting in that the isolated PLA2 has clear cut inflammation potential. We have purified the protein approx 70,000-fold and we believe at this stage that it is a pure or homogeneous preparation. What is so exciting though, is that we can induce an edema-inflammation by injecting picograms of this protein subcutaneously or into the paw. So it is clear that the protein itself is inflammatory and we have also discovered components in the synovial fluid that clearly suppress the expression of this activity and therefore may be the endogenous anti-inflammatory components needed for regulation in vivo.

Otherwise, things are going very well for us; we have a number of fascinating projects that are moving along. I have also been blessed with continuing good health since my kidney transplant. We hope that your health is improving as well.

I understand from Dr. Susskind that the Foundation has gone through some troubles recently. Brian is doing some excellent work and I hope that he can continue with RDF.

Do send out another appeal; I would be anxious to know if levels of the PLA2 are modulated during the reaction. We are also pursuing the plasma PLA2 as well... so this could be very interesting. Do visit with us if your travels bring you to the USA and the East Coast.

With best regards,

Dick

Richard C. Franson, PhD
Professor of Biochemistry