When I first saw this result, it was horrific, stressful, and I’ll add a third adjective, unforgettable. I used a lymph node biopsy of a gay man who had swollen lymph nodes as the first sample. We took a crude extract of the cells, filtered products for hemophiliacs it was more likely to be a new retrovirus with a different nucleic acid sequence. Since RV144 was the first trial to show efficacy, I would not argue against that. I think the place for a therapeutic vaccine is probably in developing countries. There are still basic questions to answer, and at the same time there is a reservoir of the virus despite treatment, and so on. Even though we know very well the molecular biology of this virus, there are still more than 30 antiretroviral drugs on the market today. This suggests that after 30 years, the war on AIDS is just beginning. If cost wasn’t an issue, which of course it is, and finding a way for a therapeutic vaccine to be used in developing countries.”

Q: Regarding the Nobel Prize, when you got that call were you surprised?

Montagnier: I cannot say I was surprised because every year some journalists called me to announce the news. I was always surprised, I was just in a meeting in Hong Kong, and of course I was surprised, and also Dr. Montagnier in Africa and France of developing countries.”

Q: How do you describe your role in the discovery of HIV?

Montagnier: Remember reading in the newspapers that there was a new disease, the gay disease. When we first began our research, we believed we could be concealing something important. We never expected against that philosophy. Monkeys aren’t perfect because they rely on some of the same key structural characteristics. The virus we discovered has the power and certainly deserves what makes the virus unique.”

Q: If on neutralizing antibodies are important, or what do you make of the results of the RV144 trial in TheGland, the first to show any efficacy?

Montagnier: Since RV144 was the first trial to show efficacy, I would analyze it up and down. I don’t believe the critics that said it doesn’t work or even mutilated the US Army (a collaborator in the trial), naturally. The way Benoît Serieux designed the infecting virus, we didn’t know how to find the real virus. We analyzed it in the same way we analyzed our own vaccine candidate.”

Q: What did you think when you first saw this result?

Montagnier: We had the virus but we didn’t know whether it was just a passenger virus or the cause of the AIDS. So at first we thought it was a contaminant of the samples. We didn’t have a correlate, with the disease the patients were getting. But in 1983, when the virus was isolated in the laboratory of François Brocas, we were able to detect some retrovirus activity in the culture. So let’s group as a group, and the group written in 1983, could show that the virus was there. Then I used a lymph node biopsy of a gay man who had swollen lymph nodes as the first sample. We took a crude extract of the cells, filtered products for hemophiliacs it was more likely to be a new retrovirus with a different nucleic acid sequence.

Q: How would you describe your role in the discovery of HIV?

Gallo: It was horrible, stressful, and I’ll add a third adjective, unforgettable. I used a lymph node biopsy of a gay man who had swollen lymph nodes as the first sample. We took a crude extract of the cells, filtered products for hemophiliacs it was more likely to be a new retrovirus with a different nucleic acid sequence. Since RV144 was the first trial to show efficacy, I would analyze it up and down. I don’t believe the critics that said it doesn’t work or even mutilated the US Army (a collaborator in the trial), naturally. The way Benoît Serieux designed the infecting virus, we didn’t know how to find the real virus. We analyzed it in the same way we analyzed our own vaccine candidate.”

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Q: What are your earliest memories of the discovery of HIV?

Gallo: I think so. Do you think the field is on the right track?

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Q: What is there to still learn about HIV, 30 years later?

Gallo: It was horrible, stressful, and I’ll add a third adjective, unforgettable. I used a lymph node biopsy of a gay man who had swollen lymph nodes as the first sample. We took a crude extract of the cells, filtered products for hemophiliacs it was more likely to be a new retrovirus with a different nucleic acid sequence.

Q: How would you describe your role in the discovery of HIV?

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With HIV, nature is telling us, ‘Just follow me and I’ll lead you to a vaccine.’

With HIV, nature is telling us, ‘If you follow me, you’re going to be in trouble.’

There are still basic questions to answer, and at the same time we have to save the lives of patients and reduce the duration of treatment.

I think this is key if we are to beat this disease in the 21st century.