

July 1st, 2012

Your Excellency, Respected President Biya:

We, the undersigned Nobel Laureates, are writing to express our grave concern about your recent decision to hand over control of the Centre International de Reference "Chantal Biya" (CIRCB) to Professor Luc Montagnier. As you are probably aware Professor Montagnier has recently been making a number of very public statements that are completely at odds with mainstream scientific opinion. He has publically suggested that vaccines are dangerous and can cause autism in the absence of any evidence to support this contention. His statements, throwing doubt on the utility of traditional vaccines, are inherently dangerous if they were to be acted upon and could lead to a discontinuation of the many vaccine treatments that are among the best preventative medical practices that are practiced around the world. They could have a disastrous impact on the quality of healthcare in Cameroon and elsewhere in Africa and could prove dangerous to the Cameroonian people. They would certainly prove most embarrassing for your administration. His further claims that DNA emits electromagnetic waves, which in turn can lead to diseases such as autism, Lyme Disease, Parkinson's disease etc., are not justified by supporting data and would delay important advances if current approaches for treating these severe diseases were to be supplanted by new methods intended to prove his ideas are correct.

While we recognize that new ideas lie at the very heart of science we also recognize that when patients' health is at stake one needs to be extremely cautious in changing proven therapies and introducing new ones that are based on poor science. Professor Montagnier is proposing novel treatments for which there is neither a good rationale based on sound science nor any preliminary data that might encourage abandoning the current research program at CIRCB.

We would urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider your decision to place the CIRCB under his control.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Richard J. Roberts and 43 co-signing Nobel Laureates
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Nobel Laureate	Discipline	Year of award
David Baltimore	Medicine	1975
Paul Berg	Chemistry	1980
Guenther Blobel	Medicine	1999
Sydney Brenner	Medicine	2002
Martin Chalfie	Chemistry	2008
Tom Cech	Chemistry	1989
Aaron Ciechanover	Chemistry	2004
Johann Deisenhofer	Chemistry	1988
Peter Doherty	Medicine	1996
Gerald Edelman	Medicine	1972
Richard Ernst	Chemistry	1991
Sir Martin J. Evans	Medicine	2007
Andrew Z. Fire	Medicine	2006
Edmond Fischer	Medicine	1992
Jerome Friedman	Physics	1990
Walter Gilbert	Chemistry	1980
Alfred Gilman	Medicine	1994
Sheldon Glashow	Physics	1979
Paul Greengard	Medicine	2000
David Gross	Physics	2004
Roger Guillemin	Medicine	1977
Avram Hershko	Chemistry	2004
David Hubel	Medicine	1981
Bob Horvitz	Medicine	2002
Tim Hunt	Medicine	2001
Roger Kornberg	Chemistry	2006
Sir Harold Kroto	Chemistry	1996
Sir Peter Mansfield	Medicine	2003
Craig Mello	Medicine	2006
Hartmut Michel	Chemistry	1988
Mario Molina	Chemistry	1995
Ferid Murad	Medicine	1998
Erwin Neher	Medicine	1991
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	Chemistry	2009
Sir Richard J. Roberts	Medicine	1993
Phillip A. Sharp	Medicine	1993
Hamilton Smith	Medicine	1978
Jack Szostak	Medicine	2009
John Walker	Chemistry	1997
Eric Wieschaus	Medicine	1995
Torsten N. Wiesel	Medicine	1981
Kurt Wuthrich	Chemistry	2002
Harald zur Hausen	Medicine	2008
Rolf Zinkernagel	Medicine	1996