



Against the Tide: *A Research Fund for Young Scientists at the Institute of Human Virology*

Against the Tide has been created to support the next generation of risk-taking scientists who, like Dr. Robert C. Gallo, are tenacious in their pursuit of discovery.

In the 1970s, when Dr. Gallo was at the National Cancer Institute, he persisted in following scientific leads that a human leukemia virus, known to exist in animals, also exists in humans. At the time, the idea was widely dismissed within the world of virology. While much of the scientific community said no, Dr. Gallo kept going because the data showed he should. He and his colleagues discovered a factor released by T-cells that promoted growth of other T-cells, now known as Interleukin-2, which then enabled him to become the first scientist to identify a human retrovirus, human T cell leukemia virus (HTLV), which is the only known virus to cause leukemia.

These trailblazing discoveries, among others, were the cornerstone of Dr. Gallo's research several years later with his lab's co-discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) as the cause of AIDS and again, when he and his team pioneered the development of the HIV blood test. His research has helped transform care and quality of life for people living with HIV.

The Institute of Human Virology, of which Dr. Gallo is the director, is the first center in the United States—and perhaps the world—to combine basic science, epidemiology, and clinical research in a concerted effort to speed the discovery of diagnostics and therapeutics for a wide variety of chronic and deadly viral and immune disorders, including HIV, hepatitis B and C, and virus-linked cancers. The breadth of the research conducted at IHV makes it the perfect place to house and inspire young virologists.

Dr. Gallo's life's work shows the importance of unexpected discoveries and curiosity in scientific research. Dr. Gallo was a young scientist when he and his team made major discoveries that went 'against the tide.' The research fund being created in his honor will support this next generation of young researchers whose bold ideas will open up new possibilities in scientific research and discovery.