

5th July 2010

Dear Laura, Bruce, Thomas and Jack

Recently you kindly provided a letter of support for the application that Professor Jim Neil and I were preparing to submit to the Wellcome Trust/Wolfson Capital Award scheme, for support to establish the **'Laboratory of Comparative & Veterinary Virology'** within the new Centre for Virus Research here at the University of Glasgow.

I am delighted to be able to write and share two very exciting pieces of news with you. Firstly, the Wellcome Trust & Wolfson Foundation have generously agreed to provide funding totalling £4.8million to create the Laboratory of Comparative & Veterinary Virology (LCVV).

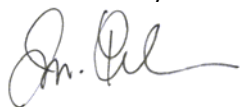
The LCVV is part of the newly formed Medical Research Council – University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (CVR). The CVR fully support the "One Health" concept as it is a unique research institution that studies both human and animal viruses.

In addition, I will assume the Directorship of this Centre on 1st August 2010. As you may know, I qualified in Veterinary Medicine in Italy and then trained as a virologist at the Moredun Research Institute obtaining a PhD at the University of Edinburgh. I followed this with research positions at the University of California Irvine and University of Georgia before taking up a Chair in Molecular Pathogenesis at the University of Glasgow in 2005. My research interests focus on animal viruses with special emphasis on the biology, evolution and pathogenesis of retroviruses and I have recently initiated a new research programme on bluetongue virus.

I am fully committed to realising the vision of the Laboratory of Comparative and Veterinary Virology to integrate animal disease research from the molecular level, through the individual host, to the affected population.

The success of this endeavor, however, will be dependent on the efforts of many and I am therefore proud and grateful to count you as a partner in this initiative. I look forward to your continued support and co-operation as we work to establish the Centre for Virus Research and the Laboratory of Comparative and Veterinary Virology.

Yours sincerely



Massimo Palmarini

Prof. Massimo Palmarini DVM PhD FRSE

Director of MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research
Chair of Virology

Institute of Infection, Immunity & Inflammation, College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences
University of Glasgow,
464 Bearsden Road, Glasgow G61 1QH, Scotland (UK)
Tel: +44 (0)141-3302541; Fax: +44 (0)141-3302271; e-mail: m.palmarini@vet.gla.ac.uk