

Robert Malone
Research Scientist

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Dr. John Holland
Department of Biology
University of California
La Jolla, California

Dear Dr. Holland,

I will be returning to Northwestern University Medical School in the winter quarter of 1990 to complete the last year and a half of my Medical Doctorate requirements. After discussing some of the events which occurred during my Ph.D. training at UCSD with the Northwestern dean of research programs, he suggested that I find out if UCSD would allow me to re-enter the program and summarize my work as a thesis. I am contacting you at this time to inquire about this possibility.

Since leaving Inder Verma's lab, I have been able to convince him to submit some of my work as a manuscript to PNAS. That paper has been accepted and will be published in the second August issue. I have also written a review and techniques paper for FOCUS which will be published in October. In collaboration with Jon Wolff, I have adapted my work to the delivery and translation of mRNA in mice. This work has been submitted to Science, has passed the initial screening and is now in final review. Additional work since leaving Inder's lab has included developing new cationic liposome preparations for tissue culture and in-vivo polynucleotide transfection (presented at the "Self cleaving RNA as an anti-HIV agent: design and delivery to cells" conference) and alteration of HIV p24 expression by transfection of NEF + and - sense mRNA. The papers and the conference data are included with this letter.

I recall that your criterion for a Ph.D. thesis in biology at UCSD is that the work makes a significant contribution to biology. I believe that this body of work fulfills that requirement. When I left the university last December I was severely depressed and disillusioned after many unpleasant experiences at the hands of my advisor, a small number of his post-docs, and some members of the department of biology. I was granted a masters degree by virtue of my passing the Ph.D. qualifying examination, and my work has not been reviewed as a thesis. If possible, I would like to be able to submit it now as a Ph.D. thesis, and to complete an experimental collaboration with the laboratory of Dr. William Harris while a student of the university. Please contact me if there is any possibility for my doing so.
Sincerely,