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CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the Central Committee for Research and Development in Blood Transfusion, held on 9th November, 1984, in the Board Room, the Crest.

Present:

[REDACTED]

In Attendance:

[REDACTED]

6/84 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from [REDACTED].

7/84 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th February, 1984, were approved as a correct record.

8/84 Matters arising from the minutes

8.1 Genetic Engineering and Blood Products

The Chairman confirmed that following [REDACTED] attendance at the Committee's last meeting, he and the Director of BPL had recently visited the USA to discuss possible research and development collaboration for the preparation of Factor VIII through genetic engineering. Two firms, namely [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED], had now made significant progress in cloning Factor VIII. [REDACTED] held a controlling interest in the latter firm, but after meeting a Vice President of [REDACTED], the Chairman said that no encouragement had been received for any development collaboration with the CBLA. [REDACTED] have an arrangement to prepare a final product from the cloned material derived from the work at [REDACTED] and in discussions with [REDACTED] a similar lack of enthusiasm for co-operative research was noted.

The attitude of the USA Companies was noted with disappointment, especially as little progress so far had been made in the UK with cloned products. [REDACTED] commented, however, that if the UK was to do this work on its own a decision would be required as soon as possible in regard to possible licensing. [REDACTED] emphasised, however, the fundamental need for a product in the first instance.

██████████ informed the Committee of five papers on genetic engineering of products shortly to appear in Nature.

8.2 Developments with respect to AIDS

██████████ reported that the causative agent of AIDS was now known to be a retro virus HTLV3. There followed discussion on testing for the virus, both in the USA and UK and it was noted that ██████████ was working with a British Isolate, although this was not as reactive at present as the material currently being used in the USA. ██████████ expressed the opinion that ██████████, ██████████ or ██████████ were the only firms in the UK with the capacity to be involved in this work. The Chairman confirmed that five USA Companies were currently licensed to develop the test. It was anticipated that test kits would be available for sale by the end of the year.

It was noted that the presumptive prevalence of an infective agent with positive antibody tests was very high, although the overall numbers of positive tests in the population appeared to be very low. In answer to a question raised by ██████████ in relation to what advice should be offered to the Director, BPL, ██████████ expressed the opinion that blood products should be withdrawn if a constituent unit of plasma was from a donor known to be anti-HTLV3 positive.

██████████ referred to a batch of Factor VIII in Scotland, fractionated in November, 1983, which was discovered to contain anti-HTLV3 in August, 1984. It was noted that a virus attack rate on this product could be as high as 80%. The remainder of the product had been withdrawn, but the incident served to highlight the difficulties which lay ahead in this context.

8.3 Trials of Heat Treated Factor VIII Manufactured at BPL

██████████, said that whilst currently putting together a policy for the laboratory, a close watch was being kept on two pieces of developing information; (i) in regard to studies on antibodies against HTLV3 virus and (ii) process efficiency. He said that BPL now wished to speak to Directors of the Supra Regional Haemophilia Service to seek approval of this work currently being carried out.

██████████ reported that the laboratory was currently dry heat treating Factor VIII with no great loss of yield and he felt that the timescale for the new product was approximately one year. The question now was whether Haemophilia Directors would be prepared to test the heat treated material using a small donor pool.

It was noted that the CBLA at its meeting in March had agreed to finance trials of BPL heat treated Factor VIII and ██████████ enlarged upon a draft protocol for the Northern Centres which had been circulated. ██████████ agreed to inform members on how far the current trials had progressed when he had more details in his possession.

After further discussions it was agreed to recommend to the CBLA that the Director should commence dry heat treating material currently being produced, whilst examining methods to obtain a better yield so that wet heat treatment might be feasible. It was

The part covered... does not
relate to the matters in
question in this action

13.2 The Chairman confirmed that discussions had been held between the DHSS and SHHD about the status of the Committee as to whether or not it should be regarded as a UK Committee. He said that discussions were still continuing and members would be informed of developments.

14/84 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at Elstree on Tuesday 2nd April, 1985, at 11.00 a.m.