

CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of the twelfth meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority, held on 23 May 1984 in the Board Room, The Crest.

Present: Mr R D Smart (Chairman)
Professor A Bloom
Dame Phyllis Friend
Dr H H Gunson
Dr E L Harris
Mr A S Jerwood
Dr G A Stewart
Mr M G Storey
Dr D P Thomas

In Attendance: Mr W P N Armour (Secretary)
Dr A M Holburn (Director, BGRL)
Dr R S Lane (Director, BPL and PFL)
Mr A J Williams (DHSS)
Mr W Jackson (Project Engineer) for item 42/84

PART I

37/84 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

38/84 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 March, 1984 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39/84 Matters Arising from the Minutes

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39.2 Product Pricing

The Secretary reported that approval had now been received from the DHSS giving a flexible pricing structure. Prices for blood products would be appropriately fixed within market conditions.

39.3 Annual Report

The Secretary confirmed that the Annual Report was now ready, subject to the addition of the detailed appendices.

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39.5 Central Committee for Research and Development in
Blood Transfusion - Trials of BPL Heat Treated Factor VIII

Dr Gunson reported that he and the Director BPL had set up a trial with Haemophilia Centres in Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle and it was hoped to commence this by late summer. The Director confirmed that the protocol for the trial had now been agreed.

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39.8 BPL - Future Opening Ceremony

The Secretary reported that he had received a response from the DHSS on the procedure to employ in writing to Her Majesty the Queen to perform this function.

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40.1 Status of Committee

Dr Harris said that he had spoken to the Chief Medical Officer, Scottish Home and Health Department, who had not been aware of any real problem. It was noted however that the Chief Medical Officer had been on annual leave and he would actively pursue matters on his return to work the following week.

40.2 Working Group on AIDS - Grant Application to MRC

Dr Gunson confirmed that a grant application to carry out a study involving blood donors, investigating the usefulness of performing non specific tests had been submitted to the MRC and a decision was now awaited. He said, however, that this had now somewhat been overtaken by events. It seemed most likely that an HTLV virus was the causative agent of AIDS. It was noted that as a result of the latest developments, Dr Gunson and Dr Wallington were subsequently preparing a paper modifying proposals in regard to the grant application.

Dr Gunson referred to a letter dated 21 May, 1984 which he had received from Dr D A J Tyrell, Chairman of the MRC Working Party on AIDS, outlining its willingness to assist the CBLA in looking for antibodies against the "AIDS agent". It was agreed that such collaboration would be advantageous and a positive response should be forwarded to Dr Tyrell.

Meeting with Haemophilia Society

The Secretary reported that he had met representatives of the Haemophilia Society approximately six weeks earlier, to establish contact and discuss matters of mutual interest. It was noted that the Secretary would continue to meet with the Haemophilia Society on a periodic basis.

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43/84

Finance

43.1 Budget Statement

A copy of the budget statement and Secretary's report (CBLA 84/26) was received and noted.

It was noted that there was some overspending at BGRL, although at this stage in the financial year no particular conclusions could be drawn. A detailed statement outlining the expanding role of BGRL was being prepared for submission to the DHSS. It was agreed that a further report on this matter would be considered at the Authority's meeting in July.

43.2 Report on BPL Products

A copy of the report on the production and issue of BPL products (CBLA 84/27) was received and noted.

Members expressed their congratulations to the Director, BPL for exceeding production targets.

43.3 Report on BGRL Products

A copy of the report on BGRL production (CBLA 84/28) was received and noted.

It was noted that the Laboratory was currently buying in stocks of bovine albumin to cope with demand and it was agreed that consideration should be given to re-charging for this product. The Director, BGRL said that the Laboratory was also buying Anti-A and Anti-B monoclonal products, which had proved to be very good and he felt that human Anti-A and Anti-B products could possibly be discontinued in the future.

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46/84 Unresolved Interim Capital Requirements

A summary outlining unresolved interim capital requirements within the Phased Redevelopment of BPL (CBLA 84/32) was received and noted.

In regard to warehousing, cold storage, etc., Dr Harris drew attention to the fact that no options had been stated and he asked about the possibility of existing buildings being modified. Dr Lane confirmed that there were no buildings that could easily be converted for warehousing facilities.

Mr A Williams said that there was no finance available for 1984/85 for BPL's interim capital requirements but firm allocations for 1985/86 would take place in the Autumn and bids should be with the DHSS by late Summer. It was agreed that the summary should come back for consideration by the Authority before the submission for allocations to the DHSS was made.

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48/84 Any Other Business

48.1 In answer to a question raised by Dame Phyllis Friend, the Secretary confirmed that the CBLA was not at present a member of the National Association of Health Authorities but it would be eligible to become

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a member if it wished. It was agreed that the Secretary should pursue the question of whether or not it would be advantageous for the CBLA to become a member of the National Association.

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Date of Next Meeting

The next normal meeting would be held on 18 July 1984, at 11.00 a.m. The Directors, having completed their contribution, received the thanks of the members for their attendance and withdrew.

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PART II

50/84 Matters in Confidence

There were no matters in confidence to be discussed.

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