

CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of the second meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority held on 26th January 1983 in the Board Room, The Crest.

PRESENT: Mr. R.D. Smart (Chairman)  
Professor A.L. Bloom  
Dr. H.H. Gunson  
Dr. E.L. Harris  
Mr. A.S. Jerwood  
Dr. G.A. Stewart  
Mr. M.G. Storey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. W.P.N. Armour (Secretary)  
Mr. S. Godfrey (DHSS)  
Dr. A.S. Holburn (Director, BGRL)  
Dr. R.S. Lane (Director, BPL and PFL)

1/83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dame Phyllis Friend and Dr. D.G. Thomas.

2/83 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 1982 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 6/82 (a), paragraph 3, should be altered to read  
"It was noted that the Authority had no power deliberately to overproduce finished products, but could sell only surplus intermediates in incompletely finished form."

3/83 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Members' Address List (CBLA 83/1)

A copy of the list of Members' current addresses was received.

3.2 Parliamentary Written Answers

Copies of the Parliamentary written answers of 26th November 1980 and 4th December 1980, referred to at the Authority's first informal meeting, were received and noted.

3.3 Investment Appraisal

Dr. Harris outlined the background against which this analysis had been prepared by DHSS for Treasury. The Appraisal was received and questions by Members on financial aspects were discussed.

3.4 Parliamentary Statement

A copy of the Parliamentary statement of 15th December 1980 was received and noted. The Secretary reported that a meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee had been arranged for 11th February 1983.

### 3.5 Letter from Lord Trefgarne

A copy of Lord Trefgarne's letter to Dr. Gordon Smith was received and noted. The Chairman drew attention to the third and fifth paragraphs of the letter, since they could be of particular importance to the Authority.

A brief resume of the history of UK research into blood products was given by Dr. Harris, who then suggested that the CBLA should take the lead in co-ordinating future research. This could be done by setting up a central research committee including representatives of MRC, NBTS, industry and of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as might be appropriate. The Chairman endorsed the desirability of such a co-ordinating body and asked Members to bring to the next meeting of the Authority any suggestions for the Chairman and Members of this central research committee. It was agreed that a Research and Development Committee was also needed within the Authority, and Dr. Lane was asked to draw up a list of suitable members for the next meeting.

## 4/83 FINANCE

### 4.1 Financial Directions

The Secretary reported that he had received information about financial directions, and that they would be drawn up and set before the Authority by 31st March 1983.

### 4.2 Budget Report (CBLA 83/2)

In introducing this report, the Secretary informed members that there were two omitted figures to be added under BGRL: an amount of £37,000 for capital, and £30,000 for cash limit (proportion). There was a potential underspending of the budget, but some of this would be absorbed on new items of equipment.

The Chairman reported that he had asked the Secretary to include for future meetings of the Authority a statement showing:-

- a) Spending compared with budget.
- b) Figures showing the value of products manufactured, on a monthly basis, separating those actually distributed to the NHS and those put into stock.
- c) Details of income generated by sales to external third parties and by royalties on CBLA intellectual property or know-how.

Dr. Lane stated that he would have no problems in finding uses for any funds underspent from the current allocation but felt that the Authority should endorse any employment of surplus needs which he might propose. In reply to a question regarding the possibility of "rolling over" any underspend, the Secretary stated that this could only be done after negotiation with DHSS.

5/83 BUILDING (CBLA 83/3)

An architect's drawing of front and side elevations of the new building was shown to Members, and was approved by them. The Secretary reported that work was going ahead in accordance with the proposed timetable, and that no delay was expected in obtaining formal approvals.

The Chairman suggested that since the dates for cutting the first sod and laying the foundation stone were very close together only one of them should be made a formal occasion. This was agreed, and it was further agreed that the Secretary and Mr. Godfrey should discuss the best way of approaching the Prime Minister to perform the ceremony.

6/83 BGRL ANNUAL REPORT (CBLA 83/4)

In considering this report, the Chairman pointed out that BGRL could only provide a satisfactory service to the National Health Service if it distributed a complete range of reagents to the Regional Centres. Dr. Harris agreed that this should be the objective and recognised that a small number of items not based on human blood would have to be included. Dr. Holburn was asked to draw up a list of items which would need to be produced in order to provide such a service.

Dr. Gunson reported that a working party had been set up to look at reagent production within the Regional Centres and that it would produce a report evaluating the situation.

7/83 BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE (CBLA 83/5)

The above Report was received, and the Chairman stated that the Authority would do all it could to foster good relations with the Blood Transfusion Service.

Dr. Lane then gave a brief report on the work of the Single Plasma Packs Working Party.

8/83 GENETIC ENGINEERING

The Secretary reported that the Department had asked for account to be taken of developments in genetic engineering. Press reports had tended to exaggerate progress, and Members were informed that this work was in fact still at an early stage.

Dr. Harris suggested that this topic was one which could be considered by the proposed Research and Development Committee, and this was agreed.

9/83 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 Information was requested on the state of negotiations with Wellcome. The Chairman reported that he was hoping to formulate Heads of Agreement with the Chairman of Wellcome Diagnostics Ltd and hoped that he would be able to bring a formal proposal to the next meeting.
- 9.2 In reply to a question about the production of monoclonal antibodies, Dr. Holburn stated that BGRL was filling anti-A material produced by Celltech and supplies would be sent to hospitals for trial and comment. The Celltech material had been paid for externally and filling it at Oxford carried no obligations.

- 9.3 The Secretary informed Members that the appropriate measures with regard to the strike by water workers had been taken. It was agreed that if production had to stop because of the strike then letters would be sent to users explaining the reasons for the resultant shortage of blood products.

The Chairman then thanked the Directors for their attendance and contributions, and requested that they withdraw from the remainder of the meeting.