

BLA/3/17

179

Dr M Sibellas

CBLA - CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN BLOOD TRANSFUSION

I attended a meeting on February 28th when a project for screening blood donors in an attempt to identify those of high risk for transmitting AIDS was discussed.

The proposal is based on screening 50,000 donors for anti-Hbc. The number is limited by the amount of reagent available from PHLS. This would be expected to turn up some 500 positive cases who would then have further screening tests e.g. TPHA, alpha-interferon, circulating immune complexes Beta 2 microglobulin, immunoglobulins and HTLV antibody for evidence of a cluster of positive tests and relate these to the high-risk groups. These 500 would also be interviewed about their proclivities. As only a small number will be identified a control group will also be identified attending the same donor sessions and this group will also be interviewed.

As CBLA have not got their own research funds a funding body for this proposal has to be found. Dr Gibson from the MRC advised that the proposal should be submitted to the Council where it might fare best from the Health Services Budget rather than through the AIDS Working Party and the Cell Board. When asked I said that the Department would be very happy to look at the proposal but similar constraints to those at the MRC (i.e funds) would apply.

It was left that a proposal would be worked up and submitted to the MRC as soon as possible.

Quite apart from detecting non-specific (surrogate) tests for AIDS this study would also give an indication of the need to screen all blood donors for anti Hbc. Dr Gunson thinks that this would be pressed upon the NBTS without adequate evidence of its usefulness and that the information from the study would be valuable in determining the real need.

GRO-C

Dr A Smithies
MED SEB
Room 1025a Han Hse
Ext GRO-C

2 March 1984

cc Dr Harris
Dr Abrams
Dr Graveney
Mr Lister
Mr Williams
Mr Fanning

SG
to note, for filing in Aids + CBLA Research.

GRO-C

29/3