

Dr Walford attending for DHSS
MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

file
2798

Circulation
Participants

AIDS 83/1

MRC WORKING PARTY ON AIDS

Meeting to be held at 20 Park Crescent, London W1N 4AL at 10.30 am on
Monday 10 October 1983

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Introduction
 - a) Welcome
 - b) Background to setting up of Working Party
 - c) Membership of Working Party (Appendix A)
2. Terms of reference of Working Party
3. AIDS : the Current position (Appendix B)
 - a) Clinical
 - b) Epidemiological
 - c) Aetiological
 - d) Pathogenetic
4. Opportunities special to the UK
 - i) Phase of epidemic
 - ii) Special expertise
 - a) Clinical
 - b) Epidemiological
 - c) Immunological
 - d) Virological
 - e) Genetic Engineering
5. Opportunities for communication about AIDS in UK
6. NIH Memorandum (Appendix C)
7. Role of the DHSS and relationship between MRC and DHSS activities on AIDS
8. Safety standards in projected AIDS work
9. Specific grant applications (Appendix D)
 - a) Adler, Tedder, Crawford (Middlesex)
 - b) Jeffries, Taylor Robinson (St Mary's)
10. Frequency of Meetings and date of next meeting
11. Any other business.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

IN CONFIDENCE

MRC Brief on AIDS

Following a meeting in the Headquarters Office chaired by the Secretary, it was agreed that the Medical Research Council should set up a Working Party on AIDS.

Dr David Tyrrell has agreed to chair the Working Party and Dr Taylor Robinson (CRC) will be his Deputy. Dr Anthony Pinching (St Mary's Hospital Medical School) has agreed to act as Scientific Secretary. The other members are:

Professor M W Adler (Genito-Urinary Medicine, Middlesex Hospital Medical School)
Professor A L Bloom (Hamaetology, Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff)
Dr N S Galbraith (Public Health Laboratory, London)
Professor K Murray (Molecular Biology, University of Edinburgh)
Dr A D B Webster (Immunochemical Genetics, Clinical Research Centre)
Dr R A Weiss (Institute of Cancer Research, London)
A Health Department Observer

The terms of reference are:

1. To review scientific knowledge and research on AIDS in the UK and abroad.
2. To encourage contact and co-operation between research workers in this field.
3. To advise the Council on the current state of knowledge in the field and on topics for research.

The first meeting will be held on 10 October.

One of the functions of the Working Party will be to consider grant applications for resarch on AIDS: the Working Party will act essentially as a panel of expert referees, though if necessary they may make suggestons for the modification of applications to bring them up to the standards required of the peer review system. One award has already been made - in advance of the formal setting up of the Working Party. This is a grant to Dr Pinching entitled 'A study of the killing of intracellular pathogens by macrophages derived from homosexual males with AIDS and related disorders'. The cost is approximately £40,000 over 3 years.

A second application from Professor Adler, Dr Tedder and Dr Crawford (Middlesex Hospital Medical School) entitled 'an investigation into the immunology and aetiology of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome' will be considered at the first meeting. The funds requested are approximately £272,500 over 3 years.

1. Case monitoring

- receive reports from CDSC

2. Contact tracing

- is the additional load a local, a CDSC, a DHSS or an HRE responsibility?

3. Epidemiology

- primarily CDSC
- what about epidemiological research & this for OCS, HSR, biomedical?

4. Overseas liaison

- WHO task force on AIDS
- EEC Council & Europe Patent Agreement Publ Health C'ttee Working Group
- FDA C'ttee of Experts & Blood Trans + Haemat.
- FDA
- USA { CDC CDSC

5. Special service requirements

- extra load on acute services
 - contact tracers
- ? special funding for M. H. R. Reginald St Mary's etc. priority, normally

6. Research - define OCS-related research
HS research

but CHD
Med Inc RL
+ MED SER

7. NBTS - leaflet for donors

Sumner suggests C'ttee of STD C/A's initiative to consider special arrangements with Mrs. Edwards
call pass on to STD Clinics. Call consult of NBTS budget justifiably.
8. CBHA - Blood Transfusion Research Committee
Leaflets for 3 coins 50/-
- New ('safer') products development

9. Haemophilia Reference Centre Directors - w/p on AIDS

10. Licensing of blood products - links with CSF; NIBSC, FDA

11. Manufacturers - monitor supply of pre-March '83 products

12. ACDP - guidelines for handling material from AIDS patients; links with HSE