

Witness Name: Geoffrey Dusheiko

Statement No.: WITN3754020

Exhibits: 0

Dated: 27 May 2020

INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR GEOFFREY DUSHEIKO

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 20 May 2020.

I, Geoffrey Dusheiko, will say as follows: -

Section 1: Introduction

1. My name, address, date of birth and professional qualifications are as follows:
Geoffrey Mark Dusheiko, Liver Unit, Kings College Hospital London UK: GRO-C 1948
MB BCh (Wits) FCP(SA) FRCP FRCP (Edin).
2. The positions I have held as a doctor, the organisations in which I have held these positions and my role and responsibilities in these positions are as follows:
 - Intern, Medicine Baragwanath Hospital, Johannesburg, 2 January 1973 to June 1973
 - Intern, Surgery Baragwanath Hospital, Johannesburg, July 1973 to December 1973
 - Locum Tenens positions January 1974 to July 1974: Paediatric Ward Northwick Park Hospital, Middlesex, U.K; Dr H.B. Valman, General Practice, Johannesburg; A.E.C.I, Modderfontein
 - Sen. Intern Paediatrics, Johannesburg Childrens Hospital, July to December, 1974
 - Sen. Intern Cardiology , Johannesburg Hospital, January to June, 1975

- Registrar Medicine (Respiratory, Endocrine, Neurology, Coronary intensive care units, Haematology, General medicine), Johannesburg Hospital, July 1975 to July 1978
 - Research Fellow, Liver Unit, Johannesburg Hospital, July 1978 to July 1979
 - Visiting research associate, Liver Unit (South African Medical Research Council Fellow), Liver Diseases Section, National Institutes of Health Washington DC USA, August 1979 to July 1981
 - Senior Physician (Consultant), Hillbrow and Johannesburg Hospital, August 1981 to December 1983
 - Unit Head (Consultant and Ward Head), Hillbrow and Johannesburg Hospital, January 1984 to December 1987
 - Guest Researcher (Vice Chancellor's Research Award), Dept of Microbiology, University of Minnesota USA, September 1986 to March 1987
 - Senior Lecturer, Academic Dept Medicine, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, January 1988
 - Reader in Medicine, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, 1989
 - Professor of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital and University College School of Medicine 1996
 - Emeritus Professor of Medicine, University College London Medical School, January 2014
 - Consultant Hepatologist, Royal Free Hospital London, 2014-2016
 - Consultant Hepatologist, Liver Unit, Kings College Hospital London UK, 2016-to date
 - Interim Deputy Director, Blood safety, Hepatitis HIV and STI National Infection Service, Public Health England, March 2019 to December 2019
3. I have served on NICE panels, National Institutes of Health USA hepatitis consensus panels, EASL guidelines committees, World Health Organisation advisory boards, the Skipton Fund, NHS EIBSS and have advised Thalassaemia and Haemophilia Societies in the past.

Section 2: Responses to criticism of W2931

Witness W2931 received a blood transfusion during his recovery from a tonsillectomy in 1978 and was referred to you in 1995 following his diagnosis with hepatitis C. At paragraphs 13-14 of his statement, witness W2931 states that at his first appointment with you, he felt that you were distant. He recalls that you asked him a series of 'quickfire' questions, including whether he had ever received a blood transfusion.

Witness W2931 states that at that time he was not aware that the phrase ‘blood transfusion’ applied to the material he received following his tonsillectomy, so replied that he had not. He believes you should instead have asked him whether he had ever received any blood products. Please comment on this.

4. I apologise if the patient felt that I was distant at his first referral. I consider myself an empathic physician and perceived “distance” should not be equated with indifference.
5. It was my duty to enquire about risk factors including a risk of transfusion. Using a check list in medicine and surgery avoids errors and mistakes and has been adopted by the WHO. Also see <http://atulgawande.com/book/the-checklist-manifesto/>
6. Many patients in our hepatitis C clinic would know what is meant when questioned about a prior blood transfusion: I accept the patient may have not appreciated the nuances around the term. However, in his witness statement, at point 5, W2931 states “I remember lying in the hospital having a blood transfusion; the drip was attached to my arm. I was never told that I was going to have a transfusion...”. His statement implies that he understood the question.

At paragraph 49, witness W2931 states that he decided not to appeal the decision of the Skipton Fund to reject his application for assistance because he became aware that you were a member of the decision-making panel. Please comment on this.

7. Decisions at the Skipton Fund were made by several medical directors. There was no reason for the patient not to have appealed the decision of the Skipton Fund. An appeals panel existed and operated effectively. W2931 would have been able to apply to the England Infected Blood Support Scheme administered by the NHS Business Services Authority. <https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/who-can-join-scheme-and-how-apply/people-infected-hepatitis-c-stage-2-payment>.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed _____

GRO-C

G Dusheiko
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Dated 27 May 2020