

Witness Name: Laurence Marcantonio

Statement No.: WITN4532001

Exhibits:

Dated: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

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### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF LAURENCE MARCANTONIO

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I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

I, Laurence Marcantonio, will say as follows: -

#### Section 1: Introduction

1. **Name** Laurence Arthur Marcantonio MSc. CSci. FIBMS

**Address:**

GRO-C  
GRO-C

**Date of Birth:**

GRO-C 1944 GRO-C Ayrshire

**Qualifications**

- Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences - Associate of Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences in Biochemistry 1967
- Glasgow College of Technology /Caledonian University- Fellowship of Institute of Biomedical Sciences in Microbiology and Biochemistry 1969
- Strathclyde University 1977 - 81 / Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences - Master of Science Degree in Drug Metabolism.
- Awarded Chartered Scientist status from Institute of Biomedical Science 2004

2. **Biomedical Scientist roles**

- a. **Job Title:** Area Laboratory Manager/Principal Biomedical Scientist  
**Location:** Area Laboratory, Crosshouse Hospital  
**Date:** December 2003 – June 2004 and also 1991-1993

My duties were to manage and co-ordinate the planning and organisation of the overall provision of Laboratory Scientific, Administrative and Support Services and in doing so oversee the business and quality activity of the Directorate in order that the Trust meets its strategic and quality objectives.

**DIMENSIONS (as at December 2003)**

Total Salaries and Wages	5,960,111
Total Supplies and Services	<u>2,447,287</u>
	<u>8,407,398</u>

Comprising:

Biomedical Scientists, Infection Control Nurse Advisors, Cervical Cytology Screeners, Medical Laboratory Assistants, Mortuary Technicians, Secretaries and Phlebotomists.

**Sites:** Crosshouse Hospital, The Ayr Hospital, Ayrshire Central Hospital, Peripheral Consultant Clinics.

I reverted to this post from Clinical Support Services Manager when the North and South Trusts combined under one CEO in 2003.

- b. **Penultimate Post – Clinical Support Services Manager**  
**From 1995 – 2003**  
**Scope – Staff 527 – Budget £12,023,987**

No specific job description, however I have listed the sort of functions that I was involved in over the period.

My main post was Head of All Non-Medical Services within the Area Laboratory in Ayrshire and Arran. Additionally, I managed Pharmacy, Physics, Photography, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Imaging, Speech Therapy, Library and the Education Centre; along with participation in various corporate functions.

- Uniting fourteen disparate departments into a cohesive directorate.
- Developed positive approaches in managing absence; last four years all well under 2.8% per annum.
- Led the four laboratory departments towards a second C.P.A. Accreditation.
- Introduced extended working and sessional payments in the laboratory, opening the laboratory 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Introduced the concept of process re-engineering to our directorate.
- Completion of garden project at Douglas Grant Rehabilitation Centre.
- Converted the laboratory van service from pick up to delivery and courier service.

- Successfully negotiated funding for the retrieval of cross boundary work.
- Secured a three-year contract for laboratory work at Abbey Carrick Glen.
- Introduced a Performance Appraisal system into all of our departments.
- Managed the introduction of a one-stop visit for treatment of patients at Douglas Grant Rehabilitation centre.
- Introduced outreach physiotherapy clinics in geographically compromised locations.
- Implemented the introduction of videoconferencing / telemedicine in Ayrshire to facilitate objectives of Designed to Care.
- Streamlined the Wheelchair Clinic service and negotiated funding for nucleus of loan chairs along with partnership facilities for management and maintenance of them with the North Council.
- Arranged the transfer and support for Speech Therapists from Community into the North Trust.
- Created and co-ordinated the concept of a clinical user group for diagnostic services.
- Established and managed systems to support audit, education, research and staff development through C.P.D.
- Used complaints in a positive fashion as a driver for change e.g. Dietetic referral.
- Encouraged benchmarking exercises to adapt best practice in laboratories and Imaging rated highly in Scotland.
- Rationalised laboratory request forms.
- Facilitated the reaccreditation of the ISO 9002 award in Medical Imaging.
- Facilitated introduction of COSHH and Risk Assessment.
- Physics working towards ISO9002 and Occupational Therapy towards Single Department Kings Fund Accreditation.
- Designed and created a Trust Handbook for Junior Doctors.
- Secured funding for a range of tumour markers.
- Produced guidelines for Near Patient Testing.
- Supervised the management of Library, Photography and Education Centre staff into the new facility.
- Introduced and developed the Phlebotomy Service in Ayrshire.
- Instituted contracts for Cervical Cytology rescreening programmes for other Health Boards.
- Oversaw total refurbishment of Mortuary and Virology areas after floor replacement.
- Initiated and produced major user satisfaction surveys in Laboratory and Imaging.

c. **Job Title:** Principal Biomedical Scientist/Laboratory Manager  
**Location:**  
**Date:** December 2003 – **retired** June 2004

As above.

3. I have never been a member of any such groups.

## **Section 2: Responses to criticism of** GRO-B

4. I am asked to comment on criticism made by GRO-B in her statement to the Infected Blood Inquiry. She states that following her diagnosis with Hepatitis C, I invited her for a meeting at Crosshouse as she wanted to find out what had happened in 1986 (when she received her blood transfusion). Ms GRO-B states that I did not have a good attitude towards her, and that I remarked "do you know how hard it was to find all you people" (in reference to the look back). I respond as follows.

In my capacity as Area Laboratory Manager /Principal Biomedical Scientist I would not have met this patient in the circumstances she describes. Furthermore, I only ever met Dr Myrtle Peterkin once when she came down to introduce herself to our laboratory at the time she took over from her predecessor. The only contact that I ever personally had with any HCV patients was when I was duty manager for a week (the CEO David Fraser made each manager take a turn at being the "face" of the Trust, in addition to their usual duties) and a lady came to the front desk and asked to speak to the duty manager. She was very upset as she lived far from Crosshouse Hospital and now was required to travel further to Gartnavel for her Interferon treatment, involving her in more expense through no fault of her own. She threatened to go to the papers about the issue unless I did something about it. I managed the issue and the patient was given money to compensate her for the additional expense she would incur. This may or may not have been the same patient as in the complaint and if it was, I treated her in a very sympathetic fashion. Unfortunately, there is no record of my report of this incident, given the great passage of time; some 25 plus years. I do note that Ms GRO-B lives in GRO-B so it is unlikely that it is the same patient.

Our laboratory only cross matches blood products given to them from the regional Blood Bank in Glasgow which was then checking for Hepatitis B virus amongst other blood borne pathogens, but not HCV, (this, as you know, is not now the case). These tests are carried out in response to a request from a medical clinical consultant. I would suggest that if Ms GRO-B met with anyone and Dr Peterkin, it would have been with her own medical consultant; I would not have the authority to write to her inviting her to the hospital for a meeting. This is borne out by the fact she calls me "Dr" Marcantonio, Furthermore, I would not like to think that any patient would think that I had been rude or angry towards them. I like to think that I was courteous and professional at all times.

Unless this is the same lady as the incident regarding transport costs described above, I have no idea how she got my name. If they are the same people, then I suggest she may have confused both issues. Unfortunately, no records or dates are available.

**Section 3: Other Issues**

5. There are no further issues pertaining to myself that I wish to comment on at this stage.

**Statement of Truth**

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

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ GRO-C

Dated 29/7/20

**Table of exhibits:**

Date	Notes/ Description	Exhibit number