



Date 20th May, 1985.
To Linda
From Walid
Subject Atlanta meeting

Copy to Brian

During my last visit to Newcastle on Wednesday, 15th May, Dr. Jones has kindly updated me on the AIDS situation in the U.S.A.

The following are some of the most important findings.

1. HTLVIII antibodies have now been found in volunteer donors who have previously been referred to as a low risk group.
2. HTLVIII antibodies are now found in female prostitutes and there is enough evidence to suggest that this is being transmitted to normal heterosexual males.

These findings suggest that HTLVIII is more contagious than originally thought as it does not confine itself to unusual sexual habits and other high risk groups.

3. Vitamins such as B and C and minerals such as zinc are now being used to boost the immunological system of those at risk.

No great success has been achieved.

4. HTLVIII antigen has now been identified. This is obviously a major achievement since once the antigen is identified, a vaccine should be within reach (14 months to 2 years.)
5. Some of those HTLVIII seropositive individuals are actually immune against the virus. The difference as to why some HTLVIII seropositive individuals will have AIDS while others are immunised probably lies in their immunological make-up.

I hope this update will be of use to you.

GRO-C

p.f. Walid

