

Wellcome Reagents Ltd

The Wellcome Foundation Ltd

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telegrams and cables
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telex
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BECKENHM 23937

16th December, 1974.

19 DEC 1974

Dr. W. d'A. Maycock,
Lister Lodge,
Elstree,
Herts.

Dear Dr. Maycock,

Some while ago you were kind enough to suggest that we might approach you with a view to obtaining supplies of Australia antigen positive blood from the National Blood Transfusion Service should our own limited contacts be unable to meet the needs of larger scale work.

As you probably know, we have been distributing the Hepatest reagents on a limited scale for some months now and are just about to launch the products formally on an almost world-wide basis. We are most concerned to ensure our ability to maintain a continuous supply of reagents in the face of what we hope will be a large and growing demand. For this reason we should like to process more high-titre antigen - containing samples with a view to immunising several animals and for the purpose of making more of the immunosorbent used in the purification of the specific antibody. Both of these activities have a relatively long "lead" time and immunosorbent has a tendency to become exhausted without giving much warning, so we wish to err on the cautious side as far as forward planning is concerned.

If you feel that our requirement for antigen-positive serum can properly be met by assistance from the Transfusion Service, I should be pleased if you could arrange for the collection of samples of serum, plasma (or even whole blood if you prefer us to do the initial separation) having a titre in excess of 1:3200 by the turkey-cell test (or other test of similar sensitivity) and of various sub-types (we can arrange to have the samples sub-typed if necessary). The quantity required will depend on titres and sub-types, of course, but several litres, at least, would be needed for reasonable security.

I should be very grateful if you could consider this request on our behalf. If you need any further information I shall, of course, be pleased to provide it.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

B.A.L. Hurn M.D., M.R.C.Path.
Research Department