Cutter

CUTTER BIOLOGICAL
DIVISION OF CUTTER LABORATORIES, INC
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February 24, 1983

Mr. Dale R. Dickinson, President
The National Hemophilia Foundation
Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter
P.O. Box 265
Placentia, California 92670

Dear Mr. Dickinson:

Thank you for your letter of 15 February expressing the concerns of the Los Angeles/Orange County Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation with respect to A.I.D.S. and Factor VIII concentrate. Your Cutter Marketing Representative, Mr. Michael McLean and I attended your AIDS meeting at Children's Hospital in Hollywood several weeks back. This dealt with this situation, and also the recommendations which the Scientific Committee of the Foundation had made the day before in New York. Cutter's Director of Regulatory Affairs was our representative at the New York meeting.

We assure you that Cutter Biological is acutely aware of the urgency and seriousness of this problem, and many of the Foundation's recommendations were already being considered for implementation even before the session in New York. Since that time a number of these have been activated in our plasma donation centers.

No plasma collection centers which Cutter operates are located in any of the major "epidemic" cities: New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, or Miami. All donors are now being alerted (even before they begin the processing procedure) that they will be required to read, understand and sign a form stating that they are not in one of the high risk groups as designated by the CDC. This will make it possible for them to leave without any self incrimination or embarrassment prior to signing up should this be the case. All donors are already given a thorough history and physical by a physician; however, this will be intensified with respect to history and examination concerning those paramenters involved in AIDS, and all male donors will be required to have a repeat, in-depth, physical every three months. Careful evaluation of temperatures, weight changes, etc., will be monitored at each visit. For many donors, this is weekly. Further evaluation of surrogate lab tests are underway, and these will be instituted if indicated.

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We are also proceeding at flank speed with development of a pasteurized Factor VIII product.

We assure you, Mr. Dickinson, and the members of your Chapter, that every effort is and will continue to be made to resolve this baffling situation, and that Cutter Biological will remain at the forefront of this battle. We shall cooperate with the Foundation, the CDC, the Office of Biologics, and our fellow manufacturers in every possible manner. All of us will share any new development the minute it becomes known, and it will be incorporated into the overall battle to solve and resolve the frightening riddle of AIDS.

Cordially yours,

GRO-C

G. M. Akin, M.D.
Director of Medical Services

GMA/nr

cc: J. Ryan
J. Peterson
M. McLean

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