SCOTTISH NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE
Headquarters Unit
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JDC/EP

17th December 1982

Dr R S Lane
Director
Blood Products Laboratory
Dagger Lane
Elstree
BOREHAMWOOD
Herts. WD6 3AX

Dear Richard

Hepatitis Reduced Factor VIII Concentrates

First and foremost, a sincere thank you for your very kind hospitality on Wednesday last. I apologise for causing you so much inconvenience and much appreciated the time you spent ferrying me to and from the airport.

I have now had the opportunity of giving our mutual problem some further thought and am able, hopelly this time more coherently, to give you a clearer reason for the anxiety and unhappiness I felt and inadquately expressed at the meeting.

I am now of the opinion that Arthur and Charles should not write a leader for the Lancet, nor even a letter. Nor do I believe you and Arthur should pursue John Holgate and Joe Smith. I do not believe it is in the best interests of the NHS Fractionation Centres, at this time, to encourage the commercial manufacturers to undertake clinical trials with a view to obtaining product licences.

I take this view because I believe that if the commercial manufacturers and forced to do formal clinical trials, they will of course do them, and they (John Craske) will indeed confirm the results of the chimpanzee studies. When that point is reached (probably less than 12 months time) there will be licenced commercial products in the UK. A further 12 months may well elapse before the NHS people are ready for clinical trials. I believe that when that time comes there will be no doctors in the UK prepared, on ethical grounds, to look at the NHS product in patients. As a consequence the NHS products may have great difficulty in being licenced. The report from John Craske that the USA is "not interested" in trials is of interest. Our conclusion that this is simply a manifestation of the organisation of haemophilia management in the USA, is naive.. The consequences of FDA licensing of one manufacturer in the States ahead of another would be a disaster for the patients there and create chaos. I have reason to believe that similar logic has been applied in West Germany.

I would therefore conclude that, at the present time, it is in our (British Transfusion Services) best interests to permit the commercial people all the freedom they desire. I fully sympathise with the sentiments expressed at our meeting, but I am totally convinced that the proposed action is tactically wrong at this time, and/

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and will have serious consequences for us all if pursued.

The solution to our problem rests, as I said at the meeting on the 15th December, in thinking and acting very much more positively - I refer to the problem of getting BPL and PFC to work together at all levels. I now deeply regret that the joint PFC/BPL meeting on factor VIII concentrates that I proposed in a letter to you dated 19th December, 1980 did not take place. However, we must now surely consider this as 'water under the bridge' and get down to the urgent task of bridge building. I'm bound to conclude that up to the present time we, as professionals, have failed and the time has come for a joint meeting of the top managers. I include in this context senior members of our respective employing authorities. It is my intention to see what I can do to build these bridges. I do not regard the existing furtive arrangements, as regards factor VIII, between Jim Smith and Peter Foster, however good they may be, as a sound basis upon which the NHS fractionators can combat the commercial people.

I am copying this letter to Harold Gunson only, to keep him informed.

Best wishes for 1983.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

John D Cash

Copy to:
Dr Gunson
cc D Bell