

Sir George Godber

Thank you for showing me this. *

The Advisory Group on Testing for Australia (hepatitis-associated) antigen and its antibody set up by the Department to advise it, has all but completed its report. Its recommendations and conclusions are remarkably similar to those of the National Research Council Committee and in some respects more specific and detailed.

I am most anxious to get the Advisory Group's report acted upon with the least possible delay once it is ready (before the end of May, I hope) so that RTCs and other laboratories have the recommendations from the beginning. Meanwhile some RTCs are testing but, as far as I know, only 3 centres in England and Wales and one in Scotland are now testing all donations. The Department, on the advice of the Advisory Group, has bought some antiserum which will be used to get the remaining centres started. We hope that sufficient antibody will then be found among donors and others tested to make us self-sufficient.

The most controversial point of the report concerns the testing of staff of RTCs. The Advisory Group is split on this. In the interests of speed, this section may have to be omitted at this stage.

* NRC News release 20.4.71

12 May 1971

Report of NRC ad hoc Cttee

on A.A. Tests of NRCs Cttee

on Plasma & Plasma Substrates

Taken to Elstree

GRO-C

12.5.71