

CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of the fifth meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority held on 27 April 1983 in the Board Room, The Crest.

PRESENT: Mr R D Smart (Chairman)
Professor A L Bloom
Dame Phyllis Friend
Dr H H Gunson
Dr E L Harris
Mr A S Jerwood
Dr G A Stewart
Mr M G Storey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr W P N Armour (Secretary)
Mr S Godfrey (DHSS)
Dr A M Holburn (Director, BGRL)
Dr R S Lane (Director, BPL & PFL)
Mr P Winstanley (DHSS)

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman welcomed Mr P Winstanley, who was to succeed Mr Godfrey as the DHSS observer.

PART 1

43/83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Dr D P Thomas.

44/83 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 1983 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 35/83, final line should be altered to read "responsible for all quality control procedures on the final product before release of tests."

45/83 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

45.1 Letter to Mr Finsberg

The Chairman reported that he had written to Mr Finsberg, but had not so far received a reply. Mr Godfrey stated that the letter was being dealt with at the DHSS and a response would be sent out in the near future. It was agreed that Mr Jerwood and Mr Storey should accompany the Chairman to the meeting if they were free on the date chosen.

45.2 Cooperation with Wellcome

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Managing Director of Wellcome, who had told him that the Heads of Agreement had been incorporated into a draft formal agreement. This should be ready to be laid before the Authority at its next meeting.

45.3 Laying of Foundation Stone

Further enquiries had revealed that the Prime Minister could not be available to lay the foundation stone of the new building. It was agreed that Mr Norman Fowler should be asked to perform the ceremony instead.

46/83 VICE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported that he had discussed the Vice Chairmanship informally with all the members of the Authority and he therefore knew that there was complete support for his proposal, which he now put forward formally, that Mr Jerwood be elected Vice Chairman of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority. This was seconded by Professor Bloom, and approved unanimously.

47/83 FINANCE

47.1 Budget Statement

A copy of the budget statement (CBLA 83/18) was received and noted.

The Chairman drew the attention of members to the provisional end of year figures. It was noted that the underspending for the year was considerably less than had been anticipated. The Authority congratulated its officers on the way they had responded to members' request to ensure that the cash limit was fully expended to obtain the best possible financial starting point for the year 1983/84.

The rent paid for BGRL premises was not shown separately on the statement. This could be because either it had not yet been charged or the DHSS had retained the appropriate amount from CBLA's allocation and paid it directly to Oxford. It was agreed that if the latter were the case then the Authority should be informed of the sum involved.

47.2 Report on BPL Products

A copy of the report on BPL products (CBLA 83/19) was received and noted. Dr Lane also circulated copies of a list of products in stock, and indicated that in the case of a few products stocks were not really adequate. However, Dr S Polakoff of PHLS was to be congratulated on the way she had handled the low supplies of Hepatitis B immunoglobulin. It was agreed that the Secretary should write and tell her that this had been minuted by the Authority.

Mr Storey asked whether further information could be given on the lists of products issued and in stock in order to make the figures more meaningful to members. It was agreed that targets, moving averages and figures for the same month of the previous year should also be shown, together with amounts of plasma supplied to BPL. Dr Lane then went on to explain that in order to build up a sufficient supply of plasma for the new factory, the RTD's would need to start working on their budgets from September. However, there would be a two-year delay before they received any increase in returned

products. It was agreed that this should first be made clear to RTD's and then Dr Lane and the Secretary should explain the situation to Regional Treasurers and to RTO's

48/83 BUILDING

A copy of the Project Control Committee report (CBLA 83/20) was received and noted. The Secretary outlined difficulties which had been experienced with local planning authorities and exaggerated press reports. However, no problems were anticipated with the final drawings which were to be submitted in June. It was agreed that every effort should be made to accommodate the wishes of the Local Authority, provided that this did not incur extra expenditure.

Dr Harris asked again about the arrangements for effluent disposal. The Secretary stated that a report on this was being prepared.

Considerable help had been received from officers at the DHSS with the preparation of the Budget Cost Submission documents, and the Secretary expressed the gratitude of the Project Control Committee for this.

49/83 CAR PURCHASE

The members approved the action of the Chairman in authorising the purchase of a further car.

50/83 STATUTORY INSTRUMENT 1983 NO. 315

A copy of the amendment to Regulations (CBLA 83/21) was received and noted. The addition to the paragraph to Standing Orders was approved.

51/83 BGRL COLLABORATION WITH CELLTECH

A copy of the report from Dr Holburn and the Secretary (CBLA 83/22) was received and noted. In order to avoid misuse of the reagents by the hospitals it was agreed that Dr Gunson's Central Research Committee should look into the design of an instruction leaflet. Dr Gunson and Dr Holburn should also collaborate on ways of getting feedback from users.

Some concern was expressed over the stability of the reagents, and it was agreed that Dr Stewart should assist Dr Holburn in the design of suitable tests.

It was further agreed that no contract should be entered into with Celltech until feedback from users had been received and further stability tests carried out.

52/83 AIDS

A copy of the report from Dr Lane on the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (CBLA 83/23) was received and noted.

Dr Gunson reported that the RTD's had considered all the American literature on this subject, and at the next meeting of their Committee it would be recommended that no further measures be taken, apart from those already being carried out.

professor Bloom reported that he had given a talk on AIDS to the AGM of the Haemophilia Society. His impression was that haemophiliacs were not greatly concerned about AIDS.

It was agreed that Mr Winstanley should try to ascertain how many telephone calls had been made to the number given at the end of the television programme on AIDS.

53/83 COMMON SEAL

The action of the Chairman in affixing the Authority's Common Seal to the undermentioned document was approved:

A contract with Matthew Hall Norcain Engineering Ltd for works in connection with a proposed Blood Products Manufacturing Unit at Elstree.

54/83 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 54.1 The Chairman reminded members that the future of PFL, once the new factory was operational, would need to be considered. BPL would have no further need of the building, but Dr Holburn felt that BGRL might be able to make use of it.

It was agreed that the Secretary should find out whether any of the lower grade staff could be employed by the Churchill Hospital.

- 54.2 Mr Godfrey stated that he had greatly enjoyed working with the Transfusion Service and the Laboratories, and thanked the Directors for all their help. On behalf of the Authority the Chairman thanked Mr Godfrey for his assistance and advice, and offered him best wishes for his next post.

- 54.3 Dr Harris asked whether the Authority would approve of Dr Diana Walford being invited to attend meetings as a technical adviser. It was agreed that Dr Walford should be allowed to go to those meetings which Dr Harris was unable to attend.

- 54.4 Dr Lane circulated copies of a letter which he had sent out inviting people to participate in the work of the BPL Research and Development Committee, together with a list of those to whom it had been sent.

- 54.5 In view of the small volume of work to be covered, it was agreed that it was not necessary to hold Authority meetings every month. The meeting arranged for May would therefore be cancelled, but those for June and July would go ahead as planned.

55/83 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on Wednesday, 22 June 1983 at 2pm.

The Directors, having completed their contributions, received the thanks of the members for their attendance and withdrew.

PART 2

56/83 MATTERS IN CONFIDENCE

There were no matters in confidence.