

Cutter



chem

CUTTER BIOLOGICAL
DIVISION OF CUTTER LABORATORIES, INC.
4TH AND PARKER STREETS
POST OFFICE BOX 1866
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701
(415) 420-4000

February 14, 1983

David C. Elliott, M.D.
Medical Director
Jackson Plasma Center
123 East Griffith
Jackson, MS 39202

(A)

Dear Dr. Elliott:

Thanks for your recent letters and comments on the AIDS situation. We agree. It is a complex, little understood situation and speculation regarding cause, effect and prevention/cure runs rampant. However, whether the disease is transmitted by blood products or not or whether homosexuals or Haitians are involved or not - Cutter cannot ignore the recommendations of FDA, CDC and National Hemophilic Foundation. We must do our very best to screen potentially at risk plasma donors and exclude them from our plasma collection operations. A package of information, procedures and forms for conducting an educational/screening program will be sent to each of the centers this week.

Don't be concerned about potential litigation brought about by perceived EEO violation. We have no reason to think it will take place and if it should, we are prepared to handle it. Litigation from recipients of our product who have contracted AIDS (whether or not our products are involved) is our concern. Again, we must carry out a "high risk" donor screening program, at least until some more appropriate plan develops.

You may have read about the Amer. Assn. of Blood Banks' (and in particular the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank of San Francisco) reluctance to screen homosexual donors. They were concerned about the potential reduction in availability of whole blood (and possibly discrimination) but have given in to the tremendous pressure from the public and regulatory authorities. I have enclosed an article from a San Francisco paper which you may find interesting.

Also enclosed is a well written encompassing Medical News article which I found quite interesting.

One last comment about the Gerety paper given at the HB Symposium. I believe the cryptic comment about removal of infectious virus during MSD HB vaccine production related to separation of the virus from the Dane particle.

100000040

David C. Elliott, M.D.
2/14/83
Page -2-

It is the purified Dane particle which constitutes the immunizing protein of the final vaccine preparation. The centrifugation involved is large scale ultracentrifugation and not applicable to plasma fractionation.

Again, thanks for your interest and comments about Gamimune. Keep up your efforts in assuring good plasma and we will do our best to have Gamimune available where needed.

Sincerely,

GRO-C

John H. Hink, Director
Plasma Procurement

JHH:gma

cc: Bob Barden
Attachment:

100000041