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11th November, 1982

Dr. C.R. Rizza,
Haemophilia Centre,
Churchill Hospital,
Headington,
Oxford OX3 7LJ

Our ref JC/PH

Your ref

Dear Dr. Rizza,

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) AND HAEMOPHILIACS

For your information I enclose a copy of a paper I have prepared for the meeting of the MRC Hepatitis Vaccine Working Group which describes the most recent information available about this new syndrome.

At Peter Kernoff's suggestion, I wrote to the project leader of the team looking into the epidemiology of this disease at the Communicable Diseases Centre, Atlanta, Georgia. He telephoned me last week. The latest information is that there are five haemophiliacs who have been identified with this syndrome, two of whom recently died. All these cases are without the usual association of homosexual practices, drug addiction or treatment with immunosuppressive drugs, which are factors which have been found in other patients acquiring opportunistic infections.

The hypothesis at present being used to explain the acquisition of these cases, which are in areas of the U.S.A. where the syndrome had not been hitherto described, is that one or two patients in the incubation period of the disease donated plasma which has since been used to prepare factor VIII or IX concentrates. All the haemophiliacs who have had the disease have had severe coagulation defects requiring regular treatment with factor VIII. The likelihood is, therefore, that other cases will be identified amongst severe haemophiliacs, though probably at a low prevalence.

The team at C.D.C. are sending the protocol they are using for studies into the clinical and laboratory features of this disease. I think, therefore, it will be necessary for us to have a meeting of the Working Party to decide what further investigations need to be undertaken in the British haemophiliac population.

I would suggest that 11th, 12th, 16th or 19th January 1983 as suitable dates from which to choose a time for the meeting, and that we meet at the Oxford Haemophilia Centre, unless another meeting place is thought preferable. I would be grateful if you would let Miss Spooner know which of these dates is convenient for you.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

J. Gruske
Consultant Virologist

ENC:

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