

Witness Name: Roger Williams

Statement No.: WITN4463001

Exhibits:

Dated: 04 June 2020

## INFECTED BLOOD INQUIRY

---

### WRITTEN STATEMENT OF PROFESSOR ROGER WILLIAMS

---

I provide this statement in response to a request under Rule 9 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 dated 20 May 2020.

I, Roger Williams will say as follows: -

#### Section 1: Introduction

1. NAME: Professor Roger Williams CBE

ADDRESS: [GRO-C] London [GRO-C]

DOB: [GRO-C]31

QUALIFICATIONS: MD, FRCP, FRCS, FRCPE, FRACP, FMedSci, FRCPI (Hon),

FACP (Hon) POSITIONS HELD:

2. **Present appointment:**

Since 2010 Director, Institute of Hepatology, London, Foundation for Liver Research

As Director of the Institute I am responsible for 25 staff working in 6 different research groups within the overarching theme of Liver Cell Injury and Repair. I am also Medical Director of the Foundation for Liver Research which provides core funding of the Institute.

**Immediate past appointments:**

1996-2010 - Professor of Hepatology and Director, Institute of Hepatology, University College London, & Honorary Consultant Physician, UCLH NHS Foundation Trust

1966-1996 - At King's College Hospital and King's College School of Medicine & Dentistry:-

- Professor of Hepatology and Consultant Physician;
- Director of the Institute of Liver Studies
- Director of Supraregional Services in Liver Transplantation & Acute Liver

Failure

- Visiting Consultant Physician, Department of Surgery, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge

1988 - 2000 - Honorary Consultant Physician in Medicine to the Army

2004 - 2008 - Hans Sloane Fellow & Director of the International Office, RCP London

#### **Previous appointments:**

1965 - 1966 - The Royal South Hants and Southampton General Hospital:  
Consultant Physician

1959 -1965 - The Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine: Lecturer in Medicine

1958 – 1959 - The Postgraduate Medical School of London, Hammersmith Hospital:  
Medical Registrar and Medical Tutor

1956 – 1958 - Military Service: Junior Medical Specialist at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, London

1953-1956 - The London Hospital: Resident appointments, Pathology Assistant and Registrar

### **3. MEMBERSHIP, PAST OR PRESENT, OF ANY COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:**

#### **Health District & Regional Committees**

- Chairman, Division of Medicine, 1975-1979
- Chairman, Working Party on Alcoholism, Joint Care Planning Team, Lambeth & Southwark AHA(T), 1980-1981
- Chairman, District Management Team, 1981-1983
- Chairman of 'C' Awards Committee, S.E. Thames R.H.A. and ex officio member of Higher Awards Committee, 1981-1986

#### **Expert Professional Committees & Advisory Boards**

- Advisory Group on Hepatitis and the Treatment of Chronic Renal Failure (Chairman: Lord Rosenheim), DHSS, 1970-1972
- WHO Scientific Group on Viral Hepatitis, Geneva, 1972

- Medical Research Council - Grants Committee to Systems Board, 1974-1977
- Chairman, Working Party on Problems of Alcoholism, Board of Science, British Medical Association, 1976-1979
- Advisory Group on Transplantation, DHSS, 1974-1981
- Advisory Group on Hepatitis, DHSS, 1980 - 1998
- Council of Europe: U.K. Representative on Select Committee on Organ Transplantation 1990-1993
- Member of the Liver Advisory Group, United Kingdom Transplant Support Services Authority 1992 - 1997
- Standing Panel of Internal Experts in Medicine, University of London, October 1993-1996
- Member, United States Pharmacopoeial Convention Inc. Transplant Immunology Advisory Panel 1995-2000 revision cycle

#### **Clinical Standards Advisory Group**

- Representative of Conference of Medical Royal Colleges and Faculties, 1994 – 1997
- Member of Committee on District Elective Surgery, Report 1996
- Chairman of Committee on "Clinical Effectiveness - A National Study" Report 1998

#### **Membership of Societies and Offices Held:**

- American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Searle Lecturer 1975 Member of Editorial Board 1987-1989, & 1994 – 2006
- Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland
- British Association for the Study of the Liver: Secretary and Treasurer 1969-1971 President 1983-1985
- British Society for Immunology
- British Society of Gastroenterology:
  - Member of Research Committee, 1975-1978*
  - Sir Arthur Hurst Memorial Lecturer 1975*
  - Editorial Board 1979-1987 Council 1981-1984*
  - Chairman, Liver Section 1986-1988*
  - President 1990*
- British Transplantation Society
- European Association for the Study of the Liver
  - Committee Member for Great Britain 1966-1970; President, 1983 & Hon. President 2008*

- European Society for Clinical Investigation:  
*Member of Editorial Advisory Board 1969-1974*
- European Society for Organ Transplantation
- Harveian Society of London  
*Secretary, Councillor and Vice-President 1963-1970; President 1974-1975*
- International Association for the Study of the Liver
- International Society Liver Transplantation
- International Medical Club:  
*President, 1989 - 1992*
- Medical Council on Alcoholism
- Medical Research Society
- Royal Society of Medicine:  
*Councillor, Section of Medicine 1968-1971;*  
*Secretary, Section of Experimental Medicine and Therapeutics 1969-1971*
- Liveryman of The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London

## **Section 2: Responses to criticism of Witness W1990**

4. As I understand the complaint from the written statement of Susan Taylor, it was to the effect that in January 1991 when I saw her for the first time at the Cromwell Hospital after referral from the USA, I did not give her sufficient "knowledge to help understand and manage the infection". But at that time, I would point out there was not much known about HCV infection. The virus had been identified in the States only the previous year (1989). I cannot remember the patient personally and have been unsuccessful in obtaining the notes of that consultation which would have been part of her hospital records at the Cromwell Hospital as they do not hold records going back that far. I am surprised if I did not say to her that it was important to avoid contact of her blood with others which is the usual route of transmission, and she must have already known this, as she acquired the infection through blood contamination.

In fact, she was fortunate in the management she received from me as I was able to arrange a liver biopsy quickly for her and following this, she had a 6 month course of Interferon which was the only known treatment at the time. This was successful in achieving a sustained virological response measured at 12 months with clearing of the virus. The liver biopsy showed only minimal changes and with the clearance of the virus, the prognosis was excellent, there was no reason for me to see her again.

From her complaint letter it would appear that she was informed of the results by her local Gastroenterologist in Liverpool to whom I would have sent the findings at the Cromwell Hospital and any opinion as I always did.

5. In her statement she said I did discuss with her whether she should have a baby and I reassured her that there were no known cases of transmission to infant at that time. It was her decision not to proceed with the pregnancy.

### Section 3: Other Issues

6. One final point in answering her complaint, namely that I was not in a position to refer her to an NHS hospital as she was from overseas. Furthermore, at that time the only treatment for HCV was in the private sector.

### Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ GRO-C

Dated 6<sup>th</sup> June 2020

