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Royal Free Hospital

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CAL/MJ

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Dr Brian Colvin
Senior Lecturer in Haematology
The Royal London Hospital
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Dear Brian

I have been thinking long and hard about the meeting on Friday. In particular, the MRC-funded project 'Trends in Mortality and Disease Incidence in UK Haemophiliacs with Special Reference to AIDS'. My concerns about this study are partly involving the scientific content and partly involving the potential authorship.

I find it quite ridiculous that all this work and effort is being put into getting information from death certificates. I think the only valid information from death certificates is actually the date of death.

As far as authorship is concerned, I am enclosing for you a paper describing the cohort of HIV infection in the United States and a paper regarding the incidence of cancer in this cohort. You will see that both of these papers are multi-authorship in contrast to the paper that was previously published in The British Medical Journal on behalf of the directors of haemophilia centres in the United Kingdom. I think we need to obtain a guarantee from Drs Rizza, Darby and Giangrande that such a format for any publications should be agreed. As you can see, James Goedert as the lead statistician/epidemiologist, is the first author on the American paper and in the same way presumably, Sarah Darby could be the first author and if Charles Rizza feels sufficiently aggrieved, he could be the backup author, or the second author. However I am certainly not willing to allow the data from the Royal Free Hospital be included in such a study, unless such an authorship were agreed. I am also rather worried about the issue of duplicate publication. Our patients would constitute about one tenth of the national cohort and we have now published various papers totalling approximately 30 in number, around our cohort. I therefore think it should be made perfectly clear by using multi-authorship, that these patients are also involved in the national cohort. Similarly I would think that Chris Ludlam would have the same view about his cohort.

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I will reschedule the HIV Working Party which was due to have met today but unfortunately, Paul could not attend, for the latter part of January and as discussed at the meeting on Friday, I will put on that agenda, getting a treatment protocol and pursuing obtaining CD4 counts nationally and also trying to establish the number of children that have been born to people with haemophilia.

I think this is potentially a very divisive and difficult situation, so I hope that you as the Chair can so to speak, anonymously raise these issues with Charlie Rizza.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

Christine A Lee

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