

CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of the third meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority held on 23rd February 1983 in the Board Room, The Crest.

PRESENT: Mr R D Smart (Chairman)
Professor A L Bloom
Dr E L Harris
Mr A S Jerwood
Dr G A Stewart

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)

13/83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dame Phyllis Friend, Dr H H Gunson, Mr M G Storey and Dr D G Thomas.

14/83 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 1983 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

15/83 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

16/83 FINANCE

A copy of the budget statement (CBLA 83/6) was received and noted.

A paper was tabled from Dr Lane detailing the values of BPL products issued in the period April 1982 to January 1983. It was agreed that information on products which were sold or issued for credit, sales of intermediates and income from royalties would also be very useful. The list would be simplified and it was agreed that the Authority would receive details as follows on a monthly and cumulative basis:-

PPF
Albumin
I g G (IM)
(IV)
Factor VIII
Factor IX
Anti-D
and others.

The Chairman stated that detailed work was being done to show what the cost would be if plasma had to be obtained elsewhere, compared with that provided by the Transfusion Service. Mr Jerwood reported that he had discussed the revised budget statement requested by the Authority with the Secretary and the Accountant. This would be produced from the beginning of the next financial year when the separate requirements of the CBLA and the DHSS had been analysed.

17/83 BUILDING

The report of the Project Control Committee (CBLA 83/7) was received and noted. The Secretary reported that the planning authorities had granted permission to proceed with the building as shown in the elevations, but that further discussions were taking place on the construction of the surface texture.

A letter had been sent to the Prime Minister asking if she would lay the foundation stone of the building.

In response to questions from Members, the Secretary stated that details of the proposals had been sent to the Medicines Inspectorate.

The special requirements for sewage and waste disposal had been carefully considered and a short report would be made available to any Member interested in this aspect of the development.

18/83 INTERIM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The report on the interim capital programme (CBLA 83/8) was received and noted.

19/83 CENTRAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Papers from Dr Harris and Dr Gunson detailing their suggestions for the title, terms of reference and membership of the Committee were circulated. It was agreed that the two sets of proposals were very similar and since there were no other suggestions they were adopted as a basis on which to work.

It was agreed that Dr Gunson should be asked to chair the Committee, and that he, together with Dr Stewart and Professor Bloom, should draw up proposed terms of reference for consideration by the Authority.

Dr Harris thought that it was most important that the Committee should have funds and he supported ~~specific~~ approaches being made to the Chief Scientist and the MRC in due course. *for specific projects*

20/83 CBLA RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman suggested that provision should be made for two R & D Committees, one for BPL/PFL and one for BGRL. It was agreed that this should be done, but that the setting up of the BGRL Committee should be held in abeyance until it was deemed desirable by Dr Holburn.

For BPL/PFL, Dr Lane read out a list of areas of specialisation from which he felt members should be drawn, and the names of suitable people from those areas. The number of these was too great for a committee, but they would constitute a panel from which members could be drawn as they were needed. It was accepted that very careful consideration must be given to the relationship between the national body and the 'internal' R & D panels in order to avoid problems such as the confidentiality of intellectual property. Dr Lane was asked to draw up terms of reference for the BPL Committee and it was agreed that the CBLA would have to give consideration to the funding of the internal activities.

21/83 BGRL PRODUCTS

A list from Dr Holburn of proposed items for production by BGRL was tabled and considered. He emphasised that the inclusion of a small number of items which were not produced from blood was essential if the Laboratory were to offer a complete service to its customers.

Dr Harris said that it would be in the interests of Transfusion Centres and Health Authorities to obtain the full range of both human and non-human blood products from BGRL and that the proposed range fell within the terms of reference and guidance received for the CBLA. It was agreed that BGRL should provide and promote the proposed range of products.

22/83 BPL OVERPRODUCTION

A copy of the letter from Dr Gerard Vaughan (CBLA 83/9) was received and noted.

23/83 COOPERATION WITH WELLCOME

The Chairman reported that he and the Chairman of Wellcome Diagnostics Ltd had met recently to discuss how cooperation could be achieved, and that he hoped to produce Heads of Agreement for consideration by the Authority at its next meeting. It was noted with pleasure that this arrangement initiated the collaboration with industry proposed by the Secretary of State. It was agreed that agreement with Wellcome should be reached before any approach to PHLS, about products which the latter Service was already manufacturing.

24/83 PATENT POLICY

The Chairman read to Members a letter from Dr Holburn which indicated that there was a need for the Authority to formulate a policy on patents. The view of the DHSS was that individual authorities should take out appropriate patents and protect and exploit their own products. It was therefore agreed to seek a meeting with an external Advisor, Mr Harold Martin, a Barrister with long experience in the Intellectual Property field who would probably be prepared to donate his services. It was further agreed that the Directors be asked to watch carefully for any new products or processes which ought to be patented.

25/83 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 25.1 Dr Lane drew the attention of Members to the fact that the Regional BTS Directors would soon be preparing their budgets for 1984/85. With the increased production in two years' time in mind, he would like to invite the RHA Treasurers to Elstree to show them what was being produced. This was approved, and it was agreed that Dr Lane, the Secretary and Dr Gunson should make the necessary arrangements.
- 25.2 The Secretary tabled a paper detailing proposals for reducing the BPL underspending. It was agreed that these should be implemented.
- 25.3 The Chairman pointed out that when the new factory was operational there would be several good quality buildings with some spare capacity. It was agreed that it would be useful for BPL to take on appropriate work for industrial concerns, where such activity

would maximise the use of existing facilities.

26/83 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 23rd March at 2pm.

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