

RSL/PP

7th July, 1978.

Professor A.L. Bloom,
Department of Haematology,
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park,
CARDIFF CF4 4XN.

Dear Professor Bloom,

I hope that it will be possible to discuss in detail the initial proposals that I want to make in this letter during the International Haematology Meeting in Paris in the near future. To introduce the problem, we are very concerned that we get the maximum yield of factor VIII out of the supplies of frozen fresh plasma that we receive at Blood Products Laboratory from the Regional Transfusion Centres; initial assay data show that there is a considerable variation in the activity of plasma received from the different regions and to some extent this depends upon the time interval between donation, plasma separation and freezing and also the anti-coagulant. Supplies of plasma are now great enough to allow us to make a 450L pool of plasma obtained from one Regional Centre and by assaying the concentrate from these pools we are collecting information which adds up to an idea of the effect in yield from certain regional-specific supplies of plasma. The yield data do not correspond with the initial activities in many respects and it would seem that quick frozen CPD plasma which arrives here at about .85 international units per ml factor VIII activity does not give us the corresponding high yield for several reasons for which one may hazard a guess.

Experiments with single packs of older fresh plasma in CPD can be made to provide a cryoprecipitate of high factor VIII activity, thus the losses in bulk processing may not just be due to instability of factor VIII of high concentration in fresh plasma; we have also to be concerned with the further processing to produce the concentrate.

Thinking of the ways in which this could be done I naturally think of the work developed in Cardiff using the radioimmunoassay and I wonder whether we could talk at some point about a collaborative approach to examine what appears to be a deterioration in the factor VIII molecule during the bulk process as I am sure you will appreciate that this has an enormous strategic importance for the future supply of factor VIII in adequate amounts.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

R.S. LANE.
Director Designate.

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