

*Re away Weiss GRC please*

*Dr Cope  
My dear Dr Cope  
you don't like  
file*

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DIRECTOR:  
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LONDON, SW3 6JB

11 May 1984

Dr Jane Cope  
Medical Research Council  
20 Park Crescent  
London W1N 4AL

Dear Dr Cope

AIDS - SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT NO SPG 8325571

This grant has not been activated because we have not yet recruited the technician. In the light of recent research on retroviruses associated with AIDS we feel it is of all the more interest to pursue these studies with vigour. As you will be aware, a newly characterised retrovirus now appears to be the leading candidate as a causative agent (see my Nature News and Views mini review enclosed). In addition we now have positive evidence that HTLV-1 and HTLV-2 are independently associated at low prevalence with AIDS risk groups (see our paper submitted to Lancet - copy enclosed).

Our collaboration with medical virologists at St Stephen's, St Mary's and the Middlesex Hospitals has been most productive, especially with Dr Richard Tedder at the Middlesex Hospital. It is in close collaboration with his laboratory that we have developed specific and sensitive radioimmunoassays for HTLV. With this in mind, we propose that our technician on the SPG grant, when recruited, should commence working at the Middlesex Hospital in order to concentrate on the development of a reliable radioimmunoassay for the new retrovirus.

We already have Montagnier's isolate in our laboratory and I hope to have collected Gallo's isolate by the time you receive this letter. The technician would be employed by the Institute of Cancer Research but would spend most of his or her time during the first 9 months or so at the Middlesex Hospital engaged in our collaborative research. By combining our efforts in this way we would also hope to economise on personnel so that this technician, employed on our grant, may cover some of the work that would have been done by one of the MLSOs applied for on the Middlesex grant. Nevertheless I do very earnestly hope that MRC will be able to fund the other MLSO on that grant application.

With the emergence of the AIDS retroviruses it seems likely that many more patients are infected than develop AIDS. One investigation that we consider to be of prime importance is to ascertain whether other infections by well known viruses, such as hepatitis B, CMV, etc may play a role in precipitating the syndrome in infected patients. We have a particular advantage in conducting this type of study in this country because of the pattern of patient attendance at



STD clinics and because sera are available for retrospective and prospective studies.


Despite the acute financial problems that the MRC is facing this year, I think the Middlesex study is well worth supporting and I feel strongly that our joint efforts in London can make a significant and unique contribution to the virology of AIDS.

Please feel free to show this letter and the accompanying papers to whomever you think it may be helpful.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

 R A Weiss

cc: Prof M W Adler  
Dr R S Tedder

Dictated by Dr Weiss and signed in his absence