



Dr. M. CONTRERAS
Director

File: Anti-HTLVIII *Antig*
NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

NORTH LONDON BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE
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MC/MM.

29th October 1985.

Dr. A. Smithies,
Department of Health and
Social Security,
Hannibal House,
Elephant and Castle,
London SE1 6TE.

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your letter of 25th October.

Fortunately for us, we were able to start anti-HTLV-III screening unofficially from the 23rd September 1985. Since we rarely have the luxury of too much blood gathering dust in the 'fridge and since our supplies of fresh frozen plasma get snapped up very quickly our only stored material is cryoprecipitate. We have been storing serum samples from donors for several months now and we are going through the records of our cryoprecipitate stocks to check which stored donors samples correspond to the stocked material. In addition we will be able to test those cryoprecipitate donors who return to give further donations so this problem is in hand.

Naturally we cannot comment on quarantined stocks of pooled plasma for fractionation at Elstree but assume that the heat inactivation will cover that aspect.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Marcela Contreras.
Director.