

8 April 1998



Dr Peter J Hamilton  
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Dear Peter

**Re: nvCJD, Clinical FFP, Leucodepletion, HCV PCR Testing, etc.**

Since your letter about FFP and increased viral safety, things, as you can appreciate have moved on. The UK Transfusion Services are having to face planning to introduce 100% leucodepletion of all blood components, importation of US plasma, i.e. plasma from a country that does not have clusters of nvCJD. In parallel with planning for 100% leucodepletion of all our blood components, we are also planning to implement methylene blue/UV light clinical FFP and also, we are required by the European Committee of Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) to introduce HCV-PCR testing regardless of whether or not we use our own UK sourced plasma.

In view of the rapidly changing circumstances that are affecting the Blood Transfusion Services in the UK, I have discussed the situation with Ted Gordon-Smith, not only in his capacity as Vice-President at the Royal College of Pathologists, but also in his position as Chairman of the National Blood User Group, and suggested that we hold a Seminar in June entitled 'Blood Matters', such that we can update all our clinical haematologist colleagues as to exactly what is happening within the service, what we are being required to do, how this is going to be funded and hopefully, by that time, we should have the outcome of the Risk Assessment of nvCJD and blood transfusion. There are huge challenges facing the service and it seems timely to have a forum where we can discuss all these problems openly with our clinical haematology colleagues.

I have managed to fix a date for 12 June at the Royal College of Pathologists. I hope you will be able to attend, where we will be able to have an open forum for discussion and a lot of these issues can be clarified. We should also have a clearer idea by 12 June just exactly what Europe and the politicians are requiring us to do. As Confucius say, "we live in interesting times".

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Sorry for not replying sooner. Events moved on so fast, each time I came to reply, the situation had changed. That's not to say it won't again, but hopefully by 12 June I'll be able to give an updated picture of where exactly we are.

Best wishes  
Yours sincerely

GRO-C

**Dr E Angela E Robinson**  
**Medical Director**

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