

Minutes of
Anti-HBc Screening Project Study Group meeting
NBS, East Anglia

Wednesday, 20 November 1996

Present:	Professor Jean-Pierre Allain	Division of Transfusion Medicine
	Dr Lorna Williamson	Division of Transfusion Medicine
	Chris Parkhouse	Abbott Diagnostics
	Dr David Howell	National Blood Service, North London
	Dr Pat Hewitt	National Blood Service, North London
	Una Whicheloe	National Blood Service, South Thames
	Barbara Cant	National Blood Service, South Thames
	Ian Reeves	National Blood Service, East Anglia

Apologies received from:	
Dr John Barbara	National Blood Service, North London
Barbara Cant	National Blood Service, Brentwood
David Wenham	National Blood Service, East Anglia

ACTION

1. **Minutes of Meeting held 12 September 1996** should be amended to add David Howell to the list of those present.

2. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

LW had written to Kate Soldan explaining that the data on age and the gender of positive donors would be difficult to obtain due to lack of resources. IR had not been able to do this yet, but hoped to find the data before the Cambridge/Brentwood merger on 16.12.96.

IR

3. **Results of NBS East Anglia Lookback** (See attached)

LW reported that a few patients were still in the pipeline for testing, but the numbers sampled on the flow chart was correct. A third positive patient had been identified since the last meeting, but he had received blood from a category three donor from whom six other recipients had tested negative. Interestingly, he had had a bout of clinical hepatitis following surgery, but prior to the implicated transfusion. LW was attempting to obtain further information and possible archive sample from Ipswich Hospital.

LW

There was discussion on handling of the donors. It was agreed that although a number were probably false positive, there was no option at the present time but to remove them from the panel. Vaccination might be an option in the future, but was unlikely to provide new scientific evidence, and at the moment there were no resources for this. It would theoretically be possible to re-contact donors in the future should this become an option. Those with detectable but low levels of anti-HBs would be the first group with whom to begin.

It was agreed that donors who had gone abroad would not be followed up, but some success had been achieved with follow up of donors throughout the UK.

4. **South Thames Update** (See attached)

The study was going well, but it was estimated that a further six months would be needed for completion. This would require a further extension to UW's contract, and resources to pay additional nursing time. See next item.

5. **Finance**

It was agreed that Abbott will pay for genomic testing directly to RST at the higher rate of £30 per sample. A price of £25 per sample was recorded in the minutes of 17.01.96, so any surplus could be used for sequencing the two HBsAg positive samples.

PH to
discuss with
RT

PH/LW will establish the current status of the budget, in particular whether Abbott have been invoiced for the previous extension to Una's and Joanna's contracts. PH will obtain a financial statement from Andy Evans and will produce a budget for future staff and support for a further six months

PH/LW

6. **Publication**

The objective should be to submit an abstract for presentation at AABB, October 1997, with publication of the paper in the Lancet.

5. **Any Other Business** None

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 26th February 1997, 09.30 at NBS Cambridge (in the Library).

Copy to: *Dr John Barbara, North Thames Blood Transfusion Centre*
Barbara Cant, National Blood Service, South Thames
Dr Sue Knowles, North London Blood Transfusion Centre
Mr Chris Parkhouse (+3), Abbott Laboratories Limited
Prof R S Tedder, University College London Medical School
Dr Patricia Hewitt, North London Blood Transfusion Centre
Professor J-P Allain, Dr Lorna Williamson, Cambridge University Division of Transfusion Medicine
Mr David Wenham, Mr Ian Reeves, Joanna Griffiths, East Anglian Blood Centre
Una Whicheloe, Research Nurse, National Blood Service, South Thames
David Howell, North London Blood Transfusion Centre

LW/cmh

26 November 1996

GRO-C