

Viral Inactivation

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rjp.imm

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Dr L Montagnier  
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FRANCE

Dear Dr Montagnier

HEAT INACTIVATION EXPERIMENTS - PROTEIN FRACTIONATION CENTRE

Dr Cuthbertson has now reported fully on his meeting with yourself and your colleagues and I would like to thank you for offering to help and collaborate in these very important experiments and areas of development.

Following your discussion with Dr Cuthbertson, I can confirm that the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service is very keen that the Pasteur Institute should evaluate the inactivation of LAV in our FVIII manufacturing process. As Dr Cuthbertson explained to you in Paris, our main interest at present is to evaluate the inactivation in the freeze-dried state. We would agree that the type of protocol discussed with yourself and Dr Barri-Sinoussi would be appropriate for this assessment. We therefore look forward to receiving an outline protocol and an estimate of the proposed cost to our Centre. This evaluation is of great importance to us and I would be grateful if this could be sent to us as soon as possible so that we can formalise our agreement in the near future.

The above viral inactivation experiments are our major concern at the present time and we are most grateful that you can perform the initial experiments. However, it is almost certain that we would wish to perform further experiments at our own facility in the future. Your suggestion that you would be able to provide SNBTS with stocks of virus is very encouraging. I will ask Dr Cuthbertson to write to you in due course to precisely define our future activities and requirements for virus. I understand that you could then enter a formal agreement for the supply of virus stocks.

Finally, the SNBTS is preparing to evaluate LAV/HTLV III test kits with a view

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to routine introduction of such a screening test in the future. It may be to our mutual advantage if we could extend the collaboration with your Centre to include an evaluation of the kit you have developed. It is hoped that our evaluation will take the form of a parallel comparison of a number of kits against a panel of donor samples. Dr Cuthbertson suggested to me that you would be interested in such a collaboration and it would be helpful if you could confirm that this is the case.

Very many thanks once again for your help and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

R J PERRY  
Director

cc Dr B Cuthbertson (Microbiologist - PFC)  
Dr J D Cash (National Medical Director - SNBTS)  
Dr J C Chermann (Institut Pasteur)