



Coleg Meddygaeth Prifysgol Cymru
University of Wales College of Medicine

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16th January, 1985.

Dr. Alison Smithies,
Principal Medical Officer,
D.H.S.S.,
Hannibal House, Room 1025A,
Elephant & Castle,
London.

Dear Dr. Smithies,

Re: HTLV III Testing for Haemophiliacs

You may remember that at the meeting at CBLA on December 10th, 1984, the need for satisfying staff requirements for HTLV III testing was discussed. Dr. Phillip Mortimer of the PHLS Laboratories at Colindale and Dr. Richard Tedder of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School stated that theoretically they could offer a service to test haemophilic patients, and for organised studies of family contacts and of the staff of Haemophilia Centres. An additional important task will be to exclude seroconversion after the use of heat treated factor VIII or IX concentrate on seronegative patients. All this work is of the utmost importance in preventing the spread of AIDS not only in haemophiliacs but also in the rest of the population but will require repeated testing.

The two laboratories named above are presently undertaking a limited amount of this work and other AIDS-related work eg. in non-haemophilic subjects. They are, however, severely constrained by lack of staff. I am therefore writing to ask if sympathetic consideration could be given to the requests of Drs. Mortimer and Tedder for additional staff funded centrally, if needed, in the first instance in this emergency situation.

In addition, I would like to draw the attention of the Department to the importance attached by the U.K. Haemophilia Centre Directors to the provision of adequate funding for the development of the British HTLV III isolate and for the development of British HTLV III antibody test kits which could be used in the Blood Transfusion Services and at CBLA for the detection of dangerous donors.

Yours sincerely,

A.L. Bloom,
Chairman, Haemophilia Centre Directors
Organisation.

c.c. Dr. C. Rizza,
Director, Oxford Haemophilia Centre,
Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LJ.