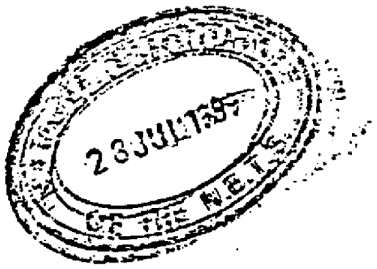
NORTH LONDON BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTRE
COLINDALE AVENUE
LONDON
NW9 5BG
Telephone: 01-200 7777
Fax: 01-200 3994

Dr. M. CONTRERAS
Director



MC/jc

25 July 1989

Dr H H Gunson
National Director
The National Directorate of the Blood Transfusion Service
Gateway House
Piccadilly South
Manchester
M60 7LP

Dear Harold

Before we submit to pressure for placing firm orders for routine donor screening with the new anti-HCV assay, we feel that there are several issues that need to be addressed.

1. The data from the preliminary studies in Europe need to be considerably extended and analysed in greater detail.

2. The three hours required for test performance need to be reduced by at least 30 minutes.

3. Repeatedly reactive sera require some form of specific confirmation along the lines of HIV testing. With the numbers of reactive sera involved we realise that confirmation might not be feasible at reference centres.

4. Obtaining and processing confirmatory samples will be expensive excercises.

5. Counselling will be prohibitively costly and a logistical nightmare!

6. Will 'look back' be required?

7. The numbers of units involved will overload our checking systems and thereby increase the chances of error.

8. A large number of units will need to be discarded and a large number of donors will need to be replaced.

These are just some of the considerations that immediately came to mind when we were both discussing NANB hepatitis.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

GRO-C

MARCELA CONTRERAS
Director

GRO-C

JOHN BARBARA
Microbiology