

CRR/MB

11th May, 1983

Dr. Rosemary Rue,  
Regional Medical Officer,  
Oxford Regional Health Authority,  
Old Road,  
Headington,  
Oxford

Dear Dr. Rue,

re: Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

I have just received Dr. Chapel's "Case of need" presented to you recently on the above subject and I am writing to say that I wholeheartedly support her in her aims to set up a screening programme. There is no doubt that the recent publicity concerning AIDS has created a good deal of apprehension in haemophiliacs, their medical attendants and the DHSS. I think it is important that we act quickly to set up screening tests to detect the patients who might be at risk of developing the full blown condition.

Apart from their value in helping us to manage our patients better, I think it is particularly important to set up tests in Oxford for the following reason. The Oxford Haemophilia Centre is the largest in the country and in addition to using American factor VIII concentrates which are said to carry a risk of transmitting AIDS, we also use large amounts of NHS factor VIII. Our system of treatment is such that many patients have received only NHS factor VIII and others only U.S. concentrates. It should therefore be possible to find out if patients on NHS concentrates are immunosuppressed to the same degree as those on U.S. concentrates. The results will have important implications for plasma fractionation policy in this country.

The matter is one of great urgency and I hope that it will be possible to set up the necessary screening test within the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely,

C.R. Rizza  
Consultant Physician