

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

TELEPHONE: **GRO-C**
TELEX: **GRO-C**

SOUTH PARKS ROAD
OXFORD OX1 3QU

Dr. J Smith
Director
PHLS
61 Colindale Avenue
London
NW9 5HT

3 November 1988.

Dear Dr. Smith,

I have been collaborating with Dr. A. Karpas through the MRC in the screening of anti HIV drugs since the summer of 1987. As a member of the MRC Steering Committee on AIDS, I take an interest in other aspects of AIDS research and, in particular, on the work which is carried out in Dr. Karpas's laboratory. As you probably know, he was the first to isolate the AIDS virus in the U.K. as early as 1983, and was only second to the French. Since then his laboratory has contributed very significantly to AIDS research. Dr. Karpas has also developed a novel and simple method to test for antibodies to HIV. I learnt today that this has been recognised by the U.S. Patent Office as a new form of antibody assay. You are probably aware that Dr. Karpas assay method was evaluated in June 1983 in your laboratory at the request of the DHSS and WHO.

In the light of the U.S. Patent Office decision, I am very concerned by the discrepancy between the Interim Report and the draft of the Final Report on the evaluation of Dr. Karpas's test. Furthermore, it seems difficult to reconcile these reports with Dr. Mortimer's statement in the letter he published in the New Scientist (September 22, P.94) "that there was no alteration of data..". I think it may be helpful to have your views, particularly as I would like to recommend the test to a major U.S. Drugs company.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Professor R.A. Dwek, M.A., M.Sc, D.Phil., D.Sc.
Director,
Oxford Glycobiology Unit.