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29 June 1979

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Dear Iain

I am sorry that, in recent time, I have been falling behind with my correspondence but life seems to be very hectic just at the moment.

First of all I thank you for drawing my attention to the article by Peter Mannucci which, of course, I had already studied.

I feel that a case could be made for, quite shortly, a meeting on the provision of Factor IX Concentrate and the consequences and risks which may be involved with the introduction of concentrates containing factor VII or concentrates of factor VII by themselves which could be used in conjunction with concentrates of factor IX. However, I am equally certain that the final result must be the establishment of a formal clinical trial situation in Scotland where, once and for all, we can assess these risks properly in the Scottish environment. I remain convinced that the risks are not anything like as serious as recent publications, particularly those from King's College, would suggest.

Turning now to your paper on BANA and the preoccupation of Dr Nour-Eldin with this subject. I have, over several years, discussed this matter on a number of occasions with Dr Ethel Bidwell who did some of the assessment of products supplied by Dr Nour-Eldin and we have reached the conclusion jointly that there would be little advantage to be gained from either of our laboratories making an active pursuit of this line of activity.

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I recall once a product which emanated from somewhere in the Spey Valley which was called "Elixir of Flowers". I am sure that you remember the subject. In some respects I have a suspicion that the BANA product has a similarity with the Elixir of Flowers or other products such as Laetrile; of very doubtful efficacy but difficult to prove or disprove in any environment outside that of the principal protagonist.

I shall certainly think of the subject again but do not hold out great hope for excitement.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely

JOHN G WATT  
Scientific Director