

Department of Medical Microbiology
 MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL
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Head of Department: Professor J. R. Pattison

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18th December 1984

Dr A Smithies
 DHSS
 Hannibal House
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 London
 TEL 6TE

Dear Alison,

re: Research and Development of AIDS-virus (HTLV III) screening of Blood Donors in the British Transfusion Service (BTS)

i. We urgently need to be able to scale-up of the Middlesex Hospital/Chester Beatty radioimmunoassay (MH/CB RIA).

ii. The MH/CB RIA has been designed to be compatible with the current BTS hepatitis testing. Pilot studies are of the utmost priority in selected centres to confirm this is indeed the case.

iii. Until the MH/CB RIA has been routinely used for a considerable time, it is very important that reactive sera are referred to a designated laboratory for confirmatory testing and that donors and their blood products are followed up.

iv. There is an initial need to monitor the efficiency with which the MH/CB RIA and the forthcoming commercial kits detect anti-HTLV III.

To allocate the maximum effort to these areas, which are already under some investigation we need the following support:

Basic grade MLSO	£8165 p.a.
Grade II Secretary	£7635 p.a.
Predicted disposables	£2500 p.a.

Professor Pattison and I must emphasise that we see the necessary UK commitment to this problem increasing over the next few years. Nevertheless, you must understand that we would be unable to take up this work without support and that we would not be able to continue it here at the end of the support period. Further this work could only have been possible with the cooperation of Professor Weiss and his colleagues in the Cancer Research Institute, Chester Beatty Laboratories. He is happy for the support at this time to be sited at the MH "end" of the collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Personal greetings!

Sorry I could not get you today 20/12

Dr Richard S Tedder

cc Professor R A Weiss
Professor J R Pattison