CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Central Committee for Research and Development in Blood Transfusion

Minutes of the seventh meeting of the Central Committee for Research and Development in Blood Transfusion held on 19 December, 1985 in the Board Room, the Crest.

Present:	Dr H H Gunson (Chairman)
	Dr I A Fraser
	Dr K I Gibson
	Dr D B McClelland
	Dr C Rizza
	Dr D P Thomas
In Attendance:	Mr W P N Armour (Secretary, CBLA)
	Dr J M Forrester (SHHD)
	Dr A Smithies (DHSS)

The Chairman welcomed Dr J M Forrester to his first meeting of the Committee as a representative of the Scottish Home and Health Department.

12/85 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Professor A L Bloom, Dr A M Holburn, Dr R S Lane, Professor A L Luzzatto, and Dr R Tedder.

13/85 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July, 1985 were approved as a correct record.

14/85 Matters Arising from the Minutes

14.1 Genetic Engineering and Blood Products

The Chairman referred to the minutes of the first meeting of the sub-committee to discuss implications of genetic engineering and DNA technology held on 11 November. It was noted that Professor Brownlee had been asked to revise his original proposals for a tripartite collaboration to produce genetically engineered Factor IX. This would be circulated to committee members. A covering note for the report prepared by Professor Luzzatto, outlining and justifying the proposals for this developmental report would be forwarded to DHSS.

The secretary reported that a meeting in January 1986 was being arranged with Scientists from Celltech in order to speed up the collaboration exercise. A major part of this meeting would involve discussions on financing a collaboration programme.

The Committee ratified previous decisions in regard to genetic engineering whereby it was an appropriate activity for the CBLA to enter into and that at an estimated cost of £500,000 over 4-5 years, it was financially viable.

In answer to a question raised by Dr Thomas it was noted that talks had been held with BTG regarding this collaborative development, and that they were satisfied for the CBLA to deal with Celltech in this matter.

14.2 HTLV III Antibody Testing in the NBTS

The Chairman reported that routine testing of blood donors had commenced in October; all BTS centres had commenced testing at the same time. It was noted that all but four Regional Centres were using the Wellcome test. The four other Regions concerned were using a test prepared by Organon. Whilst it was too early to confirm positivity, only 375,000 donations had been tested so far, it was emphasised that statistics would have to be critically examined at the end of the testing programme.

The Chairman confirmed that the MRC had now set up a sub committee of the Working Party on AIDS to carry out an epidemiological research programme on the transmission of HTLV III virus. He had been invited to sit on this sub committee. The programme included proposals for a study on donors and their families, and, on patients who had received donations found to be HTLV III positive. It was noted that RTD's had discussed the ethics of a study of this nature. It was intended that the sub committee would eventually produce a protocol for MRC peer review.

14.3 Heat Treated Factor VIII

Dr Rizza reported upon further trials carried out with heat treated Factor VIII which he had now been using for approx mately nine months. He confirmed that none of his patients, including children, had become clinically ill and, therefore, the immediate signs were encouraging.

14.4 Heat Treated Factor IX

Dr Rizza reported briefly on progress with heat treated Factor IX. The incidence of non A and non B hepatitis was difficult to assess at the current stage; it depended very much on the individual batch of product.

14.5 Bridge Anticoagulant Neutralising Agent (BANA)

The Chairman reported upon the receipt of a letter from [redacted] which agreed to the conditions set by the CBLA in order to proceed in pursuing his work on the isolation of BANA. The Secretary would reply to [redacted] in order that his application could be forwarded on to the MRC.

Dr Gibson commented that [redacted] project was an expensive one by usual MRC standards.

15/85 Preliminary Results of Plasmapheresis Trials

The Chairman said that Dr Lane had some preliminary results of these trials, but, unfortunately, his absence precluded a detailed report on these. It was noted, however, that Dr Lane had been in discussion with the Haemonetics Corporation who had designed a tear down plasma separation machine which was to be placed in the new BPL building.

There followed discussion on plasma filtration techniques and it was noted that three firms, Organon, Dedeco and Haemosciences had designed equipment for this purpose. The merits of the different machines were discussed. It was noted that Dr Lane was in possession of the relevant data about the filtration equipment but, the data corresponding to individual firms equipment was not identified for commercial in confidence reasons.

Dr McClelland reported that information was available in Scotland in regard to Haemosciences equipment. It was agreed that in order to obtain a realistic evaluation of the equipment, information should be gathered on a UK basis.

After further discussion it was agreed that summarised data from Dr Lane on the equipment from the three different organisations should be circulated to members for consideration, at the committee's next meeting. The results from Scotland would be added to this. It was also agreed to look further into the problems of the non-disclosure of the different types of equipment against the results produced.

16/85 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at Elstree on Tuesday 11 March, 1986 at 11.00 a.m.

PART 2

At the invitation of the Chairman of the Committee, [redacted] Travenol Laboratories, Chicago, Illinois, attended the CBLA headquarters in the afternoon of 19 December, 1985. [redacted] presented some slides and gave a talk on the Development of Haemoglobin Based Resuscitation Solutions.

The talk did not reveal any new scientific information, but Travenol had only recently commenced their development work. It was agreed that Travenol would keep the group informed of developments and considered whether they would wish to put forward proposals of collaboration in any aspects of the work for the Research Committee to consider.