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CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY  
CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN  
BLOOD TRANSFUSION

(32)

Minutes of the first meeting of the Central Committee for Research and Development in Blood Transfusion held on 21 June 1983 in the Board Room, The Crest.

PRESENT: Dr H H Gunson (Chairman)  
 Professor A L Bloom  
 Dr I A Fraser  
 Dr A M Holburn  
 Dr R S Lane  
 Professor L Luzzatto  
 Dr D B L McClelland  
 Dr C Rizza  
 Dr G A Stewart  
 Dr R Tedder

IN ATTENDANCE: Dr A E Bell (SHHD)  
 Dr K I Gibson (MRC)  
 Dr D Walford (DHSS)

1/83 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Dr D P Thomas.

2/83 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chairman gave a brief history of events leading to the request from the CBLA for the formation of a committee to advise them on research and development in blood transfusion and related fields.

The Committee would not receive any direct funding, but would have to rely on grants from outside agencies obtained through the CBLA.

Some concern was expressed over research funded by industry, but several members stated that in their experience this did not cause problems provided that a clearly defined agreement was reached before starting a project.

Dr Walford confirmed that it was possible to obtain funding from the DHSS, and Dr Gibson explained the system for obtaining grants from the MRC.

3/83 ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chairman suggested that if a problem required expertise from outside the Committee then an ad hoc group should be formed to consider that problem and report back to the Committee. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that regular meetings be held every six months, with extra meetings called when necessary for urgent matters.

4/83 AIDS

The Chairman outlined the problems caused by AIDS. Since it appeared

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to be transmitted through blood and blood products then it should be considered by the Committee.

The Transfusion Service was considering how to cope with the problem. The DHSS was putting out a circular asking 'high risk' donors not to give blood, but this relied on the integrity of the donor.

Dr McClelland outlined ways of dealing with the problem from various aspects. These suggestions were discussed in some detail, and the general feeling seemed to be that although several ideas were worth considering not enough was known about AIDS to enable any decisions to be made.

The Chairman asked whether members felt that sufficient research was being done into AIDS or whether an ad hoc group should be formed to consider the problem and possible courses of action.

Dr Fraser suggested that since the haemophilia centres and Dr Tedder's group at the Middlesex Hospital were already carrying out research, the Blood Transfusion Service should initiate some work in the field. It was agreed that the Chairman, Dr Lane, Dr Fraser and Dr McClelland should arrange for the formation of an ad hoc group to consider the problem and report back at the next meeting.

5/83 GENETIC ENGINEERING

Dr Lane outlined the work being done in the area of genetic engineering in the UK, and the Chairman suggested that for the time being the Committee should hold a watching brief on the subject.

However, after some discussion it was agreed that a more active stance should be adopted and a recommendation be made to the CBLA that an interest should be taken in bio-engineering of blood products and human monoclonal antibodies. It was important that research workers and potential manufacturers in the field be put in touch with each other, so that the expertise and experience which had already been obtained could be capitalised upon within the UK.

It was further recommended that the CBLA conveyed this decision to the DHSS and suggest that the CAM-R establishment at Porton Down might be considered for a contribution in this field and the Government Chemist's biotechnology group be requested to take an active interest in the developments taking place in this aspect of blood product production.

6/83 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to be considered.

7/83 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held in October, on a date to be decided.