

ACVSB 9/13  
0008

TO BE DISCUSSED UNDER ITEM 5. ON  
THE AGENDA.

#### Further Studies UKBTS Pilot Study

Representatives of the three reference laboratories involved in the NBT HCV pilot study met in the Division of Virology on 12 February. Much of the discussion will be covered under ACVSB 9/2. Arising from the discussion was the unanimous opinion that the archival samples, stored from the 10,000 donations screened during the pilot study, represent an extremely valuable resource. Though the storage and retesting of these samples by modified and increasingly sensitive assays for anti-HCV was not an integral part of the pilot study, secure archiving of the pilot samples in aliquots should allow new tests to be trialed against the donor panel.

It was generally felt that these samples were so precious that all attempts should be made to ensure that aliquoted specimens are kept as archives for the assessment of future assays when they become available. It is recognized that this decision will have some financial implications in terms of facilities for aliquoting and archiving. Nevertheless before proceeding with the testing of the new generation of assays, produced by Abbott Ltd and by Ortho Ltd, aliquoting of the samples should occur to prevent sample denaturation through repeated cycles of freezing and thawing. It was also felt that, were it at all possible, the full set of specimens should be examined by 2nd generation assays in order to provide a coherent picture for the full pilot study donor panel.

At NLBTC, samples are currently in the process of being aliquoted and will be available for further testing in the next few days.

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