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Ref PRF/KG110080.091

5 November 1991

Professor J D Cash
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Dear John

Last week I attended a meeting of the Edinburgh HIV discussion group with Chris Prowse and Helena Hart, the main speaker being Christopher Ludlam on the Edinburgh haemophilia cohort.

I was rather taken aback by Christopher's presentation and believe that you should at least be aware of some of the statements that he made:-

1. He began by pointing out that there was a group of SNBTS staff present and that he would therefore have to "toe the party line".
2. He followed this by showing a slide of SNBTS FVIII which he described as "crud".
3. His main thesis was that "alloantigenic" protein "modulates" the immune function of Haemophiliacs, explaining everything from susceptibility to HIV infection to the increased incidence of inhibitors seen with high purity products. It was disappointing that he largely ignored the growing body of evidence which does not support his hypothesis.
4. Finally in continuing this theme he argued that our early heat treatment procedure (described as "gentle warming") was a complete waste of time. He stated that the lack of infection in patients treated with batches known to be HIV-contaminated was probably a result of the particular patients not being susceptible to infection with HIV.



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In discussing this latter point Christopher appeared to believe that only one SNBTS batch of FVIII fell into this category and expressed surprise when I stated that there were at least 2 batches of this type. I agreed to follow this up for him (reply appended).

I think it is fair to say that all of the SNBTS staff present were concerned that Dr Ludlam should exhibit such an anti-SNBTS bias.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely



PETER R FOSTER

cc. R J Perry ✓
D B McIntosh