



Memorandum

Date February 23, 1984
From Rosalind Gray, Division of Legislative Analysis, OD *RG*
Subject Weekly AIDS Conference Call--February 16, 1984
To M/R

CDC

- o A meeting was held at CDC on Tuesday, February 14, on transfusion-associated AIDS. Representatives from CDC, the American Red Cross, FDA, NIH (NHLBI), and the American Association of Blood Banks attended. The purpose of the meeting was to present information currently available on transfusion-associated AIDS and to seek advice on research directions. There are currently 44 cases of transfusion-associated AIDS, 36 in adults and 8 in children.

There was some discussion of risk factors associated with the transmission of AIDS through transfusions. Also discussed was the possibility of studying persons who had received blood product from a person who later developed AIDS. It was generally agreed upon that Blood Banks should be told as soon as possible when one of their donors has been identified as having AIDS. The Blood Bank should then notify the physician of the transfusion recipient. There was no consensus on what the next step should be or whether the physician should tell the recipient.

- o Dr. German, Pasteur Institute of Paris, recently visited CDC. His laboratory published the first papers on the isolation of a retrovirus from AIDS patients. They have now obtained 11 isolates of type D retroviruses, seven from AIDS patients, three from lymphadenopathy patients, and one from a hemophiliac whose brother is a hemophiliac with AIDS. The serologic data looked promising. There appears to be a higher titer within the first week of infection in the lab model than in subsequent weeks. CDC sent these researchers coded sera from lymphadenopathy and AIDS patients, and controls. Antibody for this virus was present in the sera of ten out of ten lymphadenopathy patients, three out of ten AIDS patients, and one out of ten controls. (The antibody tends to disappear rather rapidly. This may explain the presence of antibodies in only three of the samples from AIDS patients.)
- o Jonathan Mann, formerly state epidemiologist for New Mexico, has joined the staff at CDC and will be involved in the study of AIDS in Zaire. Drs. Joe McCormick, Mann, and Andy Vernon (NIAID) will

be leaving for Zaire on March 4 to lay the ground work for the program. Dr. McCormick will stay for only two weeks. Dr. Mann will stay for one month, return to CDC, then go back to Zaire in May for a long-term assignment. It is unclear whether Dr. Vernon will stay for a long-term assignment. It is also hoped that Belgian scientists will assist in this effort.

As yet, there is no agreement on how the various representatives will cross react. Since they will all be working toward the same goal, a team effort is the desired approach. Such an approach will help to ensure that the Public Health Service is well represented to the Zairian Government.

NIH

o For details on NIH activities, see the Weekly Report on AIDS Development for February 2, 10 and 15 (Attachment 5).

Attachments (5)

cc:
AIDS Working Group
DLA Staff