

Dr. Fischinger's AIDS meeting, October 24, 1983

(Dr. Fischinger, Dr. Broder, Dr. Killen, Ms Anderson)

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Topics discussed:

- Dr. Killen will invite Dr. Chandra Prakash, Ohio State University, to come to NCI on Wednesday, November 2, to discuss his finding of hyphomicrobium in hogs that have been used in AIDS research and in Factor VIII. FDA went a couple of weeks ago to pick up some vials from Dr. Prakash to test for the microorganism, but they have been unable to isolate it.
- The New York Academy of Sciences is sponsoring a conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome on November 14-19. It may be worthwhile to have some type of followup meeting of NCI and NCI-supported scientists.
- The possibility of obtaining sera from Uganda and related regions where Burkitt's lymphoma was first described is presently being explored. This region also has a high incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma. The sera would be useful to test for HTLV. There may be African sera already available at NCI through Dr. Ziegler.
- Some NIAID investigators have suggested that opportunistic infections seen in AIDS may result from immune suppression caused by systemic release of a cyclosporin-like immunosuppressive molecule secreted from a fungal infection. (Published as a letter in The New England Journal of Medicine, October 27, 1983, by Dr. Sell and coauthors of NIAID.) Dr. Gallo is looking at this in his lab.
- CDC is now aware of 18 primary CNS lymphomas. Dr. Broder mentioned that perhaps it might be appropriate to get Dr. Blattner involved in studying these cases. Dr. Killen mentioned that CDC drops from its count of AIDS cases those patients who subsequently develop lymphomas. Because lymphoma predisposes individuals to opportunistic infections, these cases no longer fit the CDC criteria.
- The HTLV-related virus that Dr. Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute in Paris reportedly isolated from a homosexual man with infections and persistent lymphadenopathy, appears to be equine infected anemia virus.
- Mentioned that Dr. Max Essex is continuing research on screening hemophiliacs for HTLV. He's going back before the start of the AIDS epidemic to look for HTLV. (His most recent paper on antibody to HTLV in hemophiliacs appeared in Science, September 9.)