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Let Hogg
18/7/91
We can now proceed with the Hep C submission.
We must get it up this week before recess
ff. *12/7*

Dear Archie

Thank you for your letter of 1 July regarding Professor Tedder's paper in the BMJ of 1 June.

The paper states that the study provides strong evidence for sexual transmission of hepatitis C virus. However, the authors accept that other studies have differed in their findings. The group with the highest prevalence of hepatitis C, ie. male homosexuals and bisexuals, would be excluded as blood donors. Additionally, information on injecting drug abuse was not routinely sought.

As you know, Richard Tedder is a member of the UKBTS Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Diseases which is preparing the advice for Transfusion Centres about counselling donors who are found to be truly hepatitis C positive. He will, therefore, be able to put forward his views to Harold Gunson and others on that Committee, to ensure that counselling includes all the latest information available from various studies. We do not anticipate advice from this Committee will influence the date of the introduction of routine hepatitis screening. It may well underline the uncertainties about the advice to be given during counselling. These uncertainties, as you observed, were acknowledged by the members of the ACVSB at previous meetings.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Yours sincerely
Leamy

J S METTERS
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

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