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CENTRAL BLOOD LABORATORIES AUTHORITY

Minutes of the eighth meeting of the Central Blood Laboratories Authority held on 28 September, 1983 in the Board Room, The Crest.

PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE:

Part 1

78/83 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from

79/83 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July, 1983 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:-

Item 71.3 3rd para, second sentence to read, ' said that no expertise was available at Porton Down in the field of Factor VIII and other blood products and therefore a suggestion of the methodology for bio-technology of blood products would need to be made to the PHLS.'

75.1 third line 'delete' '.

80/83 Matters Arising From the Minutes

80.1 Central Committee for Research and Development in Blood Transfusion, AIDS

reported that the membership of the Working Group on AIDS was now complete with the addition of and and that its first meeting had been arranged for Friday 14 October, 1983 at BPL.

It was noted that the MRC had also set up a committee on AIDS under the Chairmanship of and either he or his Secretary would be willing to attend meetings of the Working Group. It was agreed that it would be beneficial

if [redacted] was invited to become a member of the MRC Committee on AIDS and [redacted], who had previously suggested this to the MRC, would take this matter up again.

80.2 Collaboration with Wellcome

[redacted] asked about progress in this matter. [redacted] informed members that the lawyer had not yet completed his work as some problems had developed with regard to the legal documents.

After discussion it was agreed there was a need to press Wellcome in this matter, and bring the current situation to the attention of the Chairman.

80.3 Budget Statement

[redacted]ood raised the subject of buying blood products and asked about the rights of Health Authorities in this respect. [redacted] confirmed that officially, there was no way to stop DHA's buying blood products; Doctors did have the freedom to acquire what they considered was in the best interests of their patients. He said, however, that DHSS could issue a statement in the future urging DHA's to obtain blood products from BPL.

[redacted]e expressed the view that central purchasing could be an advantage whereby the amount of imported products could be gauged. [redacted] reiterated that doctors however would still guard the right to obtain what they considered was the best product for the patient. After further discussion it was agreed that the matter should be raised at the Advisory Committee for the NBTS.

The Secretary reported that a letter had been received from DHSS confirming that the Authority would have to take a 1% cut in its Cash Limits. He said that it had been left to the Authority's discretion whether this should be cut from the revenue or capital budget. Further discussions were taking place with the Department concerning the capital budget in regard to the Redevelopment.

80.4 Internal Audit

The Secretary reported that the Statutory Auditor was due to visit BPL the following week, commencing 3rd October, 1983.

81/83 Finance

81.1 Budget Statement

A copy of the budget statement and Secretary's report

(CBLA 83/41) was received and noted.

The Secretary reiterated upon the 1% cut the Authority was expected to take which in essence he said was a shortfall of cash to fractionate plasma. He emphasised that if this finance was not available, blood products would have to be bought because full production could not be maintained, and this was the reason why a meeting had been arranged on 22 November for the Chairman and to meet , Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State. It was subsequently agreed that the Permanent Secretary should be made aware of the situation. In preparation for his meeting with the Minister, it was agreed that detailed arguments for achieving the Authority's objectives should be prepared for the Chairman as the Authority was aware of its statutory position in regard to over-funding.

suggested that the budget statement should be simplified and requested that the possibility of including the separation between fixed and variable production expenses be investigated. Comparisons should be made with the previous years actual on a year-to-date basis.

81.2 Report on BPL Products

A copy of the report on the production and issue of BPL products (CBLA 83/42) was received and noted.

81.3 Report on BGRL Products

A copy of the report on BGRL production (CBLA 83/43) was received and noted.

raised the question of future plans for products where the Authority bought raw materials. He informed members that he had current stocks of Anti-A and Anti-B Monoclonal products which he said would rapidly go out of date if not used. felt that the Authority would have to clarify its intent to Celltech in this matter, but stressed that DHA's would not pay for Monoclonal products if they had no distinct advantages. After further discussion it was agreed to recommend to the Chairman that in order to save waste Monoclonal Anti-A and Anti-B supplies should be distributed free of charge to Health Authorities instead of Anti-A and Anti-B human products.

82/83 Redevelopment of BPL

82.1 Report on Redevelopment Project

A copy of the report on the Redevelopment Project Control Committee (CBLA 83/44) was received and noted. The Secretary reported that had been awarded the Civils Contract, and they were aware of the need to employ special methods of working in adverse weather conditions in order that the project did not fall behind schedule. In answer to a question raised by the Secretary confirmed that Ministers would be informed of any controversial purchasing.

82.2 Laying of Foundation Stone of New Factory, BPL

The Secretary reported that the Secretary of State had accepted an invitation to lay the foundation stone for the new factory at BPL.

83/83 Intravenous Immunoglobulin Clinical Trial

informed members of this clinical trial which had been carried out at BPL and said that after an interim period of 6 months it had been discovered that a short incubation time for hepatitis A and B virus was evident. He said that the trial had now been suspended pending further investigation.

It was noted that had now drafted a letter to the Lancet about the trial results, which had involved twelve people.

84/83 Collective Grievance on Process Workers

A copy of the minutes of the Grievance Appeal Hearing held on 14 September, 1983 (CBLA 83/45) was received and noted. said that a full acceptance from ASTMS on the decision of the panel was still awaited, but it was considered probable that it would be accepted.

85/83 CBLA Constitution

A copy of the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures together with local consultation arrangements (CBLA 83/46) were received and approved.

86/83 Any Other Business

86.1 A copy of a report on the UK Transplant Service - Anti-D Monoclonal Antibodies (CBLA 83/47) was received and noted. Before it was decided whether the production of monoclonal Anti-D was an appropriate function for CBLA it was agreed that an interim response should be made to the UK Transplant Service. would arrange this for the next meeting.

86.2 informed members that he had received correspondence from Biological Laboratories Ballina Ltd. who had expressed an interest in buying a complete range of blood grouping reagents, although they had no expertise in the area. After discussion it was agreed that and the Secretary would carry out further investigations with regard to this company's proposals.

86.3 A leaflet, "AIDS and how it concerns Blood Donors" published by DHSS was circulated to members for information.

87/83 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at BGRL, Oxford on 23 November, 1983 at 2 p.m.

The Directors, having completed their contributions, received the thanks of the Members for their attendance and withdrew.

PART II

88/83 DIRECTORS' SALARIES

The Authority received a report from its Sub-Committee on Directors' salaries. Various points of detail were discussed, utilising the expertise of the members, particularly in regard to salaries in the pharmaceutical industry.

It was agreed that the following salaries should be recommended to the Department of Health.

a) _____

's salary should become, with effect from the 1st of January, 1984, a salary equivalent to a consultant at the top of the scale, plus a "C" award - £24,260 + £4,280.

b)

salary should become, with effect from 1st January, 1984, a salary equivalent to a consultant at the top of the scale, plus a "B" award, plus £2,135 additional responsibility allowance - £24,260 + £9,605 + £2,135.