Mr. David B. McIntosh  
General Manager  
Scottish National Bld Trans. Service  
Headquarters - Ellens Glen Road  
Edinburgh EH17 7QT  
Scotland

Dear Mr. McIntosh:

We would like to alert you concerning two letters-to-the-editor which are about to be published in The Lancet. The first of these, by Gerritzen et al, describes a cluster of HAV infections in hemophiliacs treated at the Bonn Hemophilia Center with an S/D-treated factor VIII purified by the same procedure as that "implicated" in the HAV outbreak in Italy. The second letter, byNormann et al, describes detection of an HAV nucleotide sequence, using PCR, in one lot of factor VIII implicated in the German outbreak.

In addition to these two new reports, apparently approximately 15 Irish hemophiliacs have also recently been infected by HAV. A clear association (or lack thereof) with product has not been made, but once again, the factor VIII in question was solvent/detergent treated and purified by the same ion exchange chromatography methodology.

Numerous questions remain regarding these outbreaks which are now being addressed experimentally. I have enclosed a draft letter which highlights some of the difficulties of data interpretation in this area. I have also enclosed a manuscript which will be published by the International Association of Biological Standardization, which accompanied a presentation that Dr. Bernard Horowitz gave at the Cannes meeting. The manuscript summarizes currently available information on S/D product usage and, in the last section, discusses the HA outbreak.

We will attempt to keep you abreast of developments in this area as best as we are able.

Sincerely,

Christine Watklevicz  
Licensee Affairs