

THE RHEUMATOID DISEASE FOUNDATION

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JOHN R. A. SIMOONS, Ph.D.
President

May 20, 1985

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Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of 5-9-85 in response to my letter of April 25th. From Ms. Crater's report of 3-25-85, it appeared that seven patients have entered the study of which one had finished with good response. I spoke with Ms. Crater on 5-14-85 and she informed me that as of that date a total of 9 patients have been admitted of which 5 were dropped due to various side-effects and that only three are now still on the study since one so far has completed the 12 week course. You can understand that we are very disappointed in the fact that you have only entered 9 patients in 5 months duration since the first patient was admitted on 12-19-84. At this rate the study will run about three years instead of the anticipated 18 months. We sincerely hope that you find a way to accelerate the rate of admissions and we are willing to pay for their transportation as discussed. Would you also consider recruiting patients through advertising in some medical letters? I will visit with you prior to our seminar of July 18, 1985 to obtain the latest information on the study in order to report to our members of the Foundation who will attend the meeting.

Dr. William Regelson, Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia who is coordinating studies to evaluate the role of Naegleria and other amebae in the pathogenesis of rheumatoid disease informed us that Dr. Richard C. Franson of their Department of Biophysics discovered an interesting link of the lysosomal Phospholipases in cultures of Naegleria and the synovial fluid of rheumatoid joints. He also determined that Clotrimazole is the most potent inhibitor of Phospholipase in vitro. Dr. Regelson now suggested to test samples of these fluids before and after the treatment in patients in your study on phospholipase activity in an effort to see if there is a biochemical rationale with the clinical findings upon completion of the study. Mr. Chapdelaine also requested you to submit these samples and we have no objection to re-imburse you for the expenses. Although you will be familiar with the extensive studies by Dr. Franson et al on the various Phospholipases during the last 15 years since he also published studies at the Department of Biochemistry and Medicine of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine (Infection and Immunity, Dec. 1972, p. 982-987, Vol. 6, No. 6), I enclose copies of some very

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THE ROGER WYBURN MASON & JACK M. BLOUNT FOUNDATION
FOR THE ERADICATION OF RHEUMATOID DISEASE

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interesting publications for your information.

I have a total of 20 publications by Dr. Franson of which most deal with his studies on Phospholipases A and C, their metabolism, activation, inhibition etc.

He has the most accurate method to determine the activity and is definitely one of the leading experts in this field. We are therefore very fortunate to have his cooperation, thanks to Dr. Regelson's efforts.

Enclosed please find copies of the following publications:

- 1) Phospholipase A Activity Associated with the Membranes of Human Polymorphonuclear Leucocytes; Biochem. J. 1977, 167, 839-841.
- 2) Isolation and Characterization of a Phospholipase A₂ from an inflammatory exudate; J. of Lipid Research, Vol. 19, no. 1 (1978)
- 3) Inhibition of Highly Purified Phospholipases A₂ by Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Agents; Biochem. J. 1980, 186, 633-36.
- 4) Modulating the Release of Arachidonic Acid seen as Mechanism; Rheumatology News, Vol. 10, no. 2, Febr. 1983
- 5) Inhibition of Lysosomal Phospholipases C and A in rabbit alveolar Macrophages, Polymorphonuclear Leucocytes and rat liver by Sodium Bisulfite; Biochimica et Biophysica Acta 793(1984)10-17.

I believe that these publications may give you enough information on Dr. Franson's research on Phospholipase Activity in Human and Animal studies and we hope that his current studies in Naegleria and other Amebae would also be very helpful in establishing the Wyburn-Mason's hypothesis of an Amebic causation in rheumatoid disease.

Thank you for your kind attention and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

John R.A. Simoons, Ph.D.

CC: Dr. Paul K. Pybus
Dr. J.M. Blount, Jr.
Dr. William Regelson
Mr. Perry A. Chapdelaine
Dr. Gus J. Prosch, Jr.
Dr. Robert Bingham