

THE RHEUMATOID DISEASE FOUNDATION

Rt. 4, Box 137 § Franklin, TN § 37064 § (615) 646-3757

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Perry A. Chapdelaine, Sr.
Executive Director/Secretary

May 14, 1984

Kwang W. Jeon
The University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN 37996
Department of Zoology

Dear Dr. Kwang:

Responding to your May 11, 1984 letter, I am sending a copy of this letter along with yours to Dr. Paul K. Pybus in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa. I've called Dr. Pybus, but our time differences are so great that I got his recording.

As I see it, there are three or four possibilities:

1. You simply cannot confirm Davis and Pybus findings, that limax amoeba can be found in knee and elbow effusions. They may have been mistaken, and isolated macrophages rather than either *Acanthamoeba* or *Naegleria*. Their isolate should be subjected to DNA analysis to determine the truth, and/or sent to you for verification of lineage. Just prior to Roger Wyburn-Mason's death he was jubilant because Pybus and Davis had verified what he'd felt to be an "obvious" or "easy" task; he wondered why it had taken folks so long to see the same thing he had seen.

2. Since often in amoebology (I've been told) unless the exact same conditions are transmitted from one researcher to another results cannot be confirmed, perhaps Davis and Pybus should take another look at their communication of procedure when isolating out their amoebae. If our doctors are using a different procedure they should be told; and if you are using a different procedure, you should be told.

3. The procedure obviously differs with respect to the time interval between taking the effusions and looking at them under the microscope. The environment also differs because of the transportation problem. Apparently no one knows if these factors are significant, except that the literature does not show them to be.

4. Roger stated that there were not many of the amoeba available in any one region, I believe, in which case perhaps the physicians simply have not been able to select the right fluid sample as yet.

I've talked to Dr. Blount, and neither of us knows what other descriptions should be mailed with the samples, other than that they were taken prior to giving anti-amoebics, and were from knee and elbow. Perhaps you have other descriptions in mind.

I may get to talk to Paul before this letter reaches him, in which case I'll call you.

Cordially,

Roger Wyburn-Mason & Jack M. Blount Foundation
For Eradication of Rheumatoid Disease
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Perry A.
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