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研究報告の概要	<p>2004年7月23日に米国で開催された血液製剤諮問委員会 (BPAC) において CBER の Dr. Nakhasi は、" Update on West Nile Virus " と題するプレゼンテーションの中で以下のように述べた。 『WNV に関する供血停止期間は症状の発現から少なくとも 28 日とガイダンスで勧告しているが、WNV のウイルス血症の持続期間について ARC の研究では 49 日と 39 日の事例があり、BSL の研究では 49 日の事例があった。WNV RNA は IgM と共存する可能性がある。我々は供血停止期間を現在の頭痛や発熱を含む WNV による症状発現後 28 日から 56 日に延長することを考えている (症状が 56 日以上になる場合は、症状が回復してから 14 日)。また、ドナーに復帰させるのは、症状が無くなってから 30 日後で WNV の IgM 又は個別 NAT が陰性になってからと考えている。勧告を出す前に、次の定例 AABB 作業委員会で討議する予定である。』</p>					使用上の注意記載状況・ その他参考事項等
	<p>報告企業の意見</p> <p>ARC、BSL による WNV 感染ドナーの研究結果に基づき、供血停止期間を現在の発症後 28 日から 56 日に延長することを考えているとの BPAC における CBER の Dr. Nakhasi の発言。 FDA は 2003 年 5 月の業界向けガイダンス改訂版において「FDA はすべての血漿分画製剤について現在行われているウイルス低減工程を再調査した。現在行われている方法は、WNV と分類上関連しているフラビウイルスを不活化することがバリデートされている。」と評価し、CPMP もまた 2003 年 7 月のポジションステートメントにおいて、血漿分画製剤の製造工程で WNV は不活化・除去されると評価している。 米国の弊社への原料血漿供給元では、2003 年 6 月より WNV の問診を開始している。また、WNV と類似した特徴を有している BVD をモデルウイルスとしたウイルスバリデーション試験成績から、万一原料血漿に WNV が混入したとしても、本剤の製造工程において十分に不活化・除去されると考えている。</p>					<p>今後の対応</p> <p>本報告は本剤の安全性に影響を与えないと考えるので、特段の措置はとらない。</p>





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CENTER FOR BIOLOGICS EVALUATION AND RESEARCH

BLOOD PRODUCTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Friday, July 23, 2004

8:00 a.m.

Gaithersburg Holiday Inn
2 Montgomery Village Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

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DR. SMALLWOOD: May I ask all advisory committee members to, please, take your seats? Welcome to the second day of the Blood Products Advisory Committee meeting. Yesterday I read the conflict of interest statement that applies to this meeting, however, we have a new process now and we will read a conflict of interest statement for each day.

So, if you will indulge me, I will read that at this point. This brief announcement is in addition to the conflict of interest statement read at the beginning of the meeting yesterday, and is part of the public record for the Blood Products Advisory Committee meeting on July 23, 2004. This announcement addresses conflicts of interest for topic V.

Drs. Liana Harvath, Blaine Hollinger, Matthew Kuehnert, Susan Leitman, Keith Quirolo, George Schreiber, Donna Whittaker and Ms. Katherine Knowles have been appointed as temporary voting members for this meeting

1 Dr. Michael Strong is participating in this meeting
2 as the non-voting industry representative, acting
3 on behalf of regulated industry. The Food and Drug
4 Administration has prepared general matters waivers
5 for the special government employees participating
6 in this meeting who required a waiver under Title
7 XVIII, United States Code 208.

8 In addition, there are regulated industry
9 and other outside organization speakers making
10 presentations. These speakers have financial
11 interests associated with their employers and with
12 other regulated firms. They were not screened for
13 these conflicts of interest. I would just like to
14 remind everyone participating to, please, make
15 known, if you have not already done so, any
16 affiliation you may have and your status with that
17 affiliation prior to speaking.

18 Our committee chairman, Dr. Kenrad Nelson
19 has joined us this morning, and we also have Dr.
20 Blaine Hollinger who will also be part of the
21 committee this morning.

22 I just wanted to announce to those who

1 were not here yesterday that the next date, which
2 is tentative however pretty much firm, for the next
3 Blood Products Advisory Committee meeting will be
4 October 21st and 22nd, 2004.

5 At this time I will turn over the
6 proceedings of the meeting to the chairman, Dr.
7 Kenrad Nelson.

8 Update on West Nile Virus

9 DR. NELSON: Thank you, Dr. Smallwood. I
10 will try to keep awake after the 24-hour airplane
11 ride. I came in last night but I feel really
12 pretty good and I am very interested in the topic
13 today so I think that will help.

14 The first topic is an update on West Nile
15 virus by Hira Nakhasi.

16 DR. NAKHASI: Good morning. I just want
17 to give you an update, as Dr. Kenrad Nelson
18 mentioned, on the West Nile epidemic and donor
19 testing which is happening now, in 2004. First I
20 will try to wrap up last year's things and then
21 come up to 2004.

22 Next slide, please. The topics which I

1 will update you on are, as I said, last year's
2 epidemiology and the investigational West Nile
3 testing outcome of that, and some of the
4 transfusion-transmitted cases, and then the trigger
5 for the ID-NAT testing. Then I will update you on
6 the West Nile donor and product management
7 recommendations with the recent revelations we have
8 got. Then I will update you on the 2004 epidemic
9 and investigational West Nile testing, and also our
10 efforts in-house on the panel development and other
11 scientific issues--you know, the variation among
12 the strains of viruses infectivity of these
13 studies.

14 Next slide, please. If you summarize in
15 one slide the last year's epidemic, it really
16 basically sums up that we had approximately 1000
17 [sic] cases or, to be precise, 9862 cases, human
18 cases, and 264 deaths. And, the proportion of the
19 West Nile meningitis/encephalitis was 29 percent,
20 whereas, the fever was 69 percent in the human
21 cases.

22 Forty-six states, including Washington,

1 D.C., were endemic, and donor testing started, as
2 all of you know, in July of 2003, using two
3 investigational NAT testing. In some cases, a
4 small proportion started in the middle of June.
5 Despite this testing, I think these two
6 investigational NAT testing--these are minipool and
7 the two tests were the Gen-Probe test and the Roche
8 test, and Roche tested, as you know, in pools of 6
9 and the Gen-Probe test involves a pool of 16.

10 Despite testing, there were some
11 transfusion-transmitted cases and CDC had
12 investigated a total of 23 cases. They were
13 confirmed by NAT and IgM reactivity and also by
14 follow-up of both the donor and the recipient. Out
15 of the 23, 6 were confirmed cases. Only 4/6, you
16 may recall, had very low viremia, around 0.1
17 pfu/ml. Eleven cases did not confirm; 3 were
18 inconclusive because of the follow-up situation;
19 and 3 were open investigations.

20 Next slide, please. As I said, since it
21 started on July 1 of last year, screening using
22 minipool NAT and IND, all geographic regions of the

1 U.S. were screening at that time. With that, what
2 happened 1000 units of West Nile infected blood
3 donors were interdicted after screening
4 approximately 8 million donations. So, I think it
5 was a very, very vast improvement over the year
6 before when there was no testing. The last
7 positive donation was reported in the middle of
8 December in 2003.

9 Despite this testing, as you see, the
10 majority of cases were interdicted, more than 75
11 percent, but there was a small percentage which
12 went through because, as you know, this was done in
13 minipool NAT.

14 Next slide, please. This slide is Mike
15 Busch's slide where he showed why we were missing
16 some of these cases, and we knew that minipool NAT
17 sensitivity was such. The areas, you know, where
18 the wrap-up takes place when--you know, he calls it
19 stage I, II, III, IV and V, and in stage I and II
20 they are ID-NAT positive but minipool NAT negative,
21 IgM negative. So, it could be plus/minus. So,
22 during that stage they become IgM positive but they

1 become minipool negative and they are still ID-NAT
2 positive. So, this region and this region were the
3 ones where they went through. But, you know, these
4 were IgM negative and these were IgM positive so
5 the question is what is the infection of these
6 types of samples.

7 Next slide, please. So there was a
8 potential for transmission of West Nile through
9 minipool NAT negative blood of low viremia in some
10 patients. Therefore, what happened at that time is
11 that limited prospective ID-NAT testing started in
12 high incidence areas. If you remember last year,
13 Colorado, Kansas and certain other areas, and
14 Nebraska were hot spots and ID-NAT was triggered at
15 that time, and the trigger was based on if the
16 preceding the rate of 1/200 minipool NAT positive
17 rate of 1/250, then they would start testing with
18 ID-NAT testing. Also, what happened at that time
19 is that there was voluntary withdrawal of the
20 frozen transfusables in the high incidence areas
21 before the ID-NAT was initiated by some blood
22 establishments.

1 Next slide, please. There was also
2 another initiative started at that time. The
3 initiative was to go back to do the retrospective
4 study on the minipool NAT negative samples and test
5 them by ID-NAT to find out how many we missed. It
6 would also let us know what was the low level of
7 viremic high incidence samples in high incidence
8 areas where minipool NAT did not pick them up.

9 The other purpose of the study was also to
10 identify samples which are like minipool NAT low
11 titer, minipool NAT negative but ID-NAT positive
12 for infectivity studies. I told you that we do not
13 know whether those samples are still infectious at
14 low levels, and what is the level of infectivity.
15 So, these samples would be tested in various animal
16 models including non-human primates. Also, the
17 purpose of these samples is to really find out the
18 relative clinical sensitivity of various West Nile
19 investigational testing. I will report in a minute
20 what is happening with the infectivity state.

21 Next slide, please. Based on the
22 observation that we had minipool testing and we

1 missed some of the samples because the viremia was
2 low, and also in the ID-NAT testing in the high
3 incidence areas--based on those studies and based
4 on the logistics issues, the question was what
5 should be the trigger for ID-NAT, and also logistic
6 issues such the availability of adequate resources,
7 recruitment, reagents and trained technologists.

8 So, the discussion about the trigger for
9 ID-NAT was held in collaboration with the AABB task
10 force. By the way, we are very indebted to the
11 AABB task force for the biweekly meetings almost
12 throughout the year, and weekly meetings with the
13 task force during the epidemic to update us and
14 jointly discuss the strategies for how to go
15 forward with the testing performance, as well as
16 the epidemic.

17 So, based on that discussion, which was
18 held in February, the recommendations were the
19 following for the ID-NAT trigger: It was discussed
20 that we should monitor reactive rates by zones
21 daily, enrolled 7 days when the epidemic was
22 starting, which was usually, you know, around the

1 beginning of July and early June even and this year
2 even May some cases were found. The trigger was
3 that if you have 2-4 cases in any geographic
4 area--that is the blood collection, and the
5 frequency of 1/1000. This was based on the fact
6 that every 1/4 would be missed by minipool NAT and
7 require ID-NAT. This was the study done by ARC and
8 BSL and they found out that that would be the
9 trigger. And, you go back to minipool NAT only
10 when you see ID-NAT reactivity and you don't find
11 zero cases in a consecutive 3-4 day period or the
12 rate is less than 1/1000. So, that was the trigger
13 because, you know, we wanted to be prepared this
14 year because last year it was on an ad hoc basis to
15 start ID-NAT testing in those hot areas. So, we
16 wanted to be prepared this year if these areas
17 become hot so that we get the logistics present
18 there so we can start without interruption of the
19 ID-NAT testing.

20 Next slide, please. Now we come to 2004,
21 where are we now? As of July 20, which is a couple
22 of days back--as you see, every week the numbers

1 keep changing. Last week there were 108. This
2 week it is 182 human cases out of which there were
3 4 deaths. There are 2 from Arizona, 1 from Texas
4 and 1 from Iowa. Out of total infections, 74
5 percent of cases are neuroinvasive West Nile
6 illness and 26 percent cases are West Nile fever.
7 At the moment there are 35 states endemic for West
8 Nile. This slide has been kindly provided by Jen
9 Brown, from CDC, and other slides which I will
10 mention later.

11 The total number of presumptive West Nile
12 viremic donors reported to the CDC ArboNet--that is
13 why I highlighted this, is 23. There are more
14 cases than that but, as you know, there is a delay
15 in reporting to the ArboNet from the health
16 departments. So, using minipool NAT as well as
17 ID-NAT in select areas, starting on May 4. Out of
18 these 23 presumptive West Nile viremic donors, 21
19 are from Arizona. The majority are from the
20 Maricopa county near Phoenix, in Arizona; 1 from
21 New Mexico and 1 from Iowa. But this is the tip of
22 the iceberg.

1 Next slide, please. This slide, again, is
2 provided by Jen. You can see the distribution of
3 the West Nile, both the animal, avian and mosquito
4 infection, which is in this color, and the blue
5 color shows you the human cases. You can see it is
6 very high in Arizona and California. I am telling
7 Mike Strong that it is creeping up in Washington
8 soon. So, he has been telling me we don't see
9 anything and I said, well, wait and watch! As you
10 remember, in 1999, how this started and how it is
11 spreading and, you know, it just keeps on going. I
12 hope it will end up in the ocean sometime.

13 Next slide, please. This is just to give
14 you how early the human cases can be detected. As
15 you see from the slide, the earliest one was in
16 April. So, you know, there is an expansion of this
17 epidemic, it looks like. We were told in the
18 textbooks it is mostly in August and September or
19 late July but you can see it as early as April now,
20 and last year we saw it as late as December, in the
21 middle of December. So, you know, it is almost a
22 year-round activity now.

1 Next slide, please. Thanks to all the
2 blood establishments and testing establishments, I
3 got these data from several folks and I will
4 acknowledge them as I speak. The total number,
5 according to my calculations but this may not be
6 right, is 61 presumptive viremic donors reported,
7 starting in May, 2004. As I said, some of them are
8 reported to ArboNet and some of them are not. So,
9 it is not in addition to that; it is inclusive of
10 the ArboNet reports. ARC has told me--Sue Stramer
11 gave the data from June 16 to July 20, 7 hard
12 cases. Again, this is also in the Arizona area.
13 But she says no region has their ID-NAT trigger.

14 Mike Strong gave me this data from Roche.
15 There are 2 positive confirmed by ID-NAT--around
16 300,000 donations screened.

17 BSL, Sally Caglioti and Mike Busch told me
18 that there are 23 confirmed, out of which 16 came
19 from minipool NAT and 7 came from ID-NAT, confirmed
20 positives. There are 14 pending and he was saying
21 that some of them are ID-NAT and would have been
22 missed by minipool NAT. Also, some of them are low

17

1 viremic and also there are some which are IgM
2 positive. The denominator is around 400,000.

3 Gen-Probe, Leanne Kiviharju, gave the
4 data. These are non-ARC data but I am not sure--I
5 sent an email to Leanne--whether this is also
6 non-BSL but I am not sure; maybe we can find out
7 from here, but 21 confirmed positive and 7 are
8 pending. I am glad that you guys sent me several
9 slides. I was basically trying to summarize what
10 the presumptive donors are and, you know, I really
11 appreciate your sending extra slides.

12 The Department of Defense, Ron Hagey sent
13 me the data which has 8 confirmed out of 62,774
14 since January of 2004.

15 So, you know, this is the majority of the
16 screening going on at this time and there may be a
17 few cases which have not been reported yet, but
18 this is where we stand as of today.

19 Next slide, please. I just wanted to sort
20 of briefly remind you that FDA is still continuing
21 to work closely with the test kit manufacturers and
22 we would like to facilitate implementation of these

1 tests and expediter test licensure. I just want to
2 remind you that we issued two guidances in October,
3 2002 and May, 2003. There are 3 INDs for West Nile
4 minipool-NAT. One is from Roche, one from
5 Gen-Probe and one from ARC. This is public
6 information. FDA is continuing to work with the
7 AABB task force. I think that has been a
8 wonderful, wonderful collaboration with the AABB
9 task force and the people on the task force are
10 really helpful in doing this project together, and
11 with the CDC, NIH help, and to monitor the epidemic
12 and monitor the testing.

13 Next slide, please. Both ARC and BSL did
14 a study, which is unpublished observation. We had
15 a small discussion at the task force on what they
16 found out in some of the viremic donors when they
17 followed up. They wanted to find out what is the
18 rate of the disappearance of RNA when they convert
19 IgM and IgG. As you remember, in the last years
20 before the testing started the literature was that
21 it can go as long as 28 days of viremia. But from
22 their studies, and I don't want to go into detail

1 here because these are unpublished and, you know, I
2 don't want to divulge information--the gist of that
3 was that what they found out in both cases is that
4 the viremia may last up to 49 days in one case and
5 39 days in the ARC study, and in the BSL 49 days,
6 and West Nile RNA may go coexist with IgM.
7 Therefore, this sort of started us thinking. In
8 the guidance document we put 28-day donor deferral
9 and so we may have to rethink the deferral for
10 that.

11 Next slide, please. We have not discussed
12 it with the AABB task force but we will be
13 discussing with the task force that, you know, the
14 integration of West Nile testing information. We
15 are thinking about maybe 56-day deferral for West
16 Nile diagnosis of symptoms, including headache and
17 fever, or 14 days after symptom resolution if it is
18 more than 56 days. Potential reinstatement of
19 donor deferral for West Nile symptoms only
20 following 30 days without symptoms, and negative by
21 West Nile IgM or ID-NAT. Again, this is current
22 thinking. We have nothing in the works yet but we

1 have internal discussions, and we will discuss it
2 at our next regular AABB task force before we come
3 up with a recommendation. Dr. Alan Williams is
4 spearheading this initiative.

5 Next slide, please. With regard to our
6 activities in-house, as I mentioned last year also,
7 we are still working on the panel development. The
8 purpose is to monitor sensitivity of assays to
9 detect viral nucleic acid antibodies, and also
10 trying to isolate and characterize West Nile
11 strains from human samples during 2003 and 2002
12 epidemics. The purpose of this study, which is done
13 by Dr. Maria Rios in our group--and all these
14 studies actually really are done by Dr. Maria Rios'
15 group--is the genetic variation of viral strains;
16 detection by currently available West Nile assays.
17 The purpose is to really see if there is any
18 genetic variation and also infectivity studies
19 using animal models. Currently, the samples have
20 been identified which could be used for infectivity
21 studies. However, there are logistic issues about
22 the animals, baboons, which are being worked out

1 with the Southeast Medical Center. I guess the
2 task force is working on that. Hopefully, we will
3 get some information by fall and we will be set to
4 do those studies.

5 Next slide, please. Briefly, they have
6 two isolates, NY99 in 2002, which have been
7 characterized by genetic sequencing which I can
8 show you in a minute. The viral infectivity is
9 determined by in vitro studies using cell lines and
10 primary human blood cell cultures. Final panel
11 specifications are being established through the
12 collaborative studies, and the range of
13 concentration ranges between 1000-5 copies/ml.

14 Next slide, please. Just a piece of
15 information here that Maria was kind enough to
16 provide to me. You know, she did the comparison of
17 the human 2002 strain and the NY99 flamingo isolate
18 and then passed through the Vero cells. She found
19 there were 20 nucleotide mutations and one
20 insertion. The mutations are distributed all
21 across the region which result in 5 amino acid
22 substitutions. She is characterizing more isolates

1 and she already has 6 from 2002, 11 from 2003 and 6
2 from 2004. So, the purpose is to really compare
3 and to see what the differences are and how those
4 differences impact on our tests.

5 Next slide please. The outcome of the
6 panel testing--six laboratories participated in
7 that. She tells me there were no false-positive
8 results reported. More variability in detection
9 was found towards the lower end of the viral
10 concentration, i.e., 80 percent of the time
11 detected 100 copies/ml member but all laboratories
12 detected 100 percent of the time the panel members
13 of 500-1000 copies/ml. Further testing is going to
14 define the consensus copy number.

15 Next slide, please. This is the important
16 slide. I would like to thank all the people who
17 really helped to make this talk possible. Jennifer
18 Brown, whom I have always been bugging to provide
19 the slides. Thank you, Jennifer. Dr. Sue Stramer,
20 Dr. Mike Busch and Sally Caglioti, Dr. Mike Strong,
21 Leanne Kiviharju, Roland, Maria and all these
22 people--whoever I send an email they are kind

1 enough to respond quickly. Also my colleagues at
 2 the FDA, Maria Rios, Alan Williams, Dr. Epstein,
 3 Martin Ruta, Indira Hewlett--always helping in this
 4 whole project and, last but not the least, the AABB
 5 task force. I am really, really grateful to them
 6 for providing all the information and helpful
 7 discussion. Thank you very much.

8 DR. NELSON: Thank you. Any questions or
 9 comments? Yes?

10 DR. GOLDSMITH: Do you have additional
 11 data on the level of viremia in these samples that
 12 you have been studying? What is the maximum level
 13 of viremia?

14 DR. NAKHASI: Which samples are you
 15 talking about?

16 DR. GOLDSMITH: The ones that you
 17 recovered from the viremic donors.

18 DR. NAKHASI: From the viremic donors, I
 19 don't know. Maria, do you know what the levels
 20 are?

21 DR. RIOS: Between 10
 22 level of viremia that we have found. Are you
 5 and 106 is the high

1 asking for the range of viremia or the high level
2 of viremia?

3 DR. GOLDSMITH: I was just curious about
4 the high but it is fine to give the range.

5 DR. RIOS: It varies. It varies. The
6 assays, in general, that use lower volumes do not
7 detect them. Assays that have higher volume and
8 high throughput detect, but do not give accurate
9 quantitation, to 10
6 copies/ml.

10 DR. NELSON: One of your slides had 23
11 positives with 16 by minipool and 7 by ID. Were
12 those 7 not detectable by minipool or was it just
13 that ID screening was triggered and they weren't
14 tested by minipool?

15 DR. NAKHASI: I think they came for the
16 ID-NAT testing. Is that true? Yes. You know, in
17 BSL they had already started ID-NAT testing in
18 Maricopa County. The trigger had started earlier.

19 DR. NELSON: So, they were negative by
20 minipool?

21 DR. STRONG: No, the trigger was activated
22 and they started doing ID screening so they haven't

1 gone back yet, I think, to see if those would have
2 been picked up by minipool.

3 DR. BUSCH: Actually, 7/12 that were
4 picked up in the region that had been converted to
5 ID-NAT, 7 of them had been fully worked up and 5 of
6 those 7 are negative at 1:16 dilutions so they
7 would have been missed by minipool. Of those 5, 1
8 of them is antibody negative and 4 have IgM and
9 IgG.

10 DR. NELSON: Has anybody looked at the
11 characteristics of the donors that have low levels?
12 Are there host factors that might influence whether
13 somebody has high level or low level? I know one
14 feature may be antibody but in those that are
15 antibody negative, I wonder if there are any donor
16 characteristics that influence the level of
17 viremia.

18 DR. BUSCH: Sue has looked at that I think
19 more formally and there wasn't any correlation.
20 These are representative donors of the donor pool
21 in terms of the vireemics, non-vireemics and low
22 vireemics. I think it is just by chance. This

1 phase of early viremia is completely asymptomatic.

2 DR. RIOS: It may have some inherited
3 characteristics that limit the viral replication.
4 The reason why we think that is because we have
5 performed some in vitro studies with human primary
6 macrophages and there is a great variability not
7 only in the day of the viral peak, but some
8 individuals can have a very steady and low titer
9 that doesn't progress to peak. So, that indicates
10 that some inheritance variability may interfere
11 with replication.

12 DR. NELSON: That is interesting. Other
13 questions?

14 DR. LAAL: Unless I misunderstood, I
15 noticed that in 2003 we had a majority of your
16 isolates from people who had fever, and about
17 one-quarter were from neuroinvasive cases. In 2004
18 it is reversed.

19 DR. NAKHASI: Yes, that is an important
20 point. I discussed it with the CDC folks and they
21 said, you know, don't pay attention to that because
22 the fever cases were--you know, this year they are

1 paying more attention so some of the fever cases
2 were not real fever cases. You are right, you saw
3 the switch.

4 DR. LAAL: But then in the isolates that
5 you are picking up now for the genetic studies, are
6 you carefully making sure that you look at both
7 types?

8 DR. NAKHASI: Maybe Maria can say; I don't
9 know.

10 DR. RIOS: The isolates that have been
11 studied so far don't come from patients. Actually,
12 that is the effort we are going to move towards
13 now. They are identified through the blood
14 screening. So, in order to evaluate if there is
15 any isolate that may not be picked up by the blood
16 screening we need to acquire samples from cases
17 that are non-blood donors to investigate this
18 possibility.

19 DR. NELSON: Yes, Mike?

20 DR. STRONG: Just a quick comment on the
21 donors. In the studies that were done last year,
22 many of the donors that were interviewed, in fact,

1 were symptomatic either shortly before or shortly
2 after their donations but the screening questions
3 just didn't pick them up.

4 IV. Hepatitis B Virus Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT)
5 for Donors of Whole Blood

6 DR. NELSON: Thanks. The next topic is
7 hepatitis B virus nucleic acid testing for donors
8 of whole blood. Dr. Gerardo Kaplan will introduce
9 this and give us background.

10 A. Introduction and Background

11 DR. KAPLAN: Good morning.

12 [Slide]

13 I am Gerardo Kaplan, Chief of the Lab of
14 Hepatitis and Related Virus Emerging Agents. I am
15 with the Office of Blood, and I will introduce for
16 you the hepatitis B virus nucleic acid testing
17 for donors of whole blood.

18 [Slide]

19 The general agenda for this meeting is
20 that after the introduction and background, Dr.
21 Blaine Hollinger will give us an update on the
22 serology of hepatitis G. This will be followed by