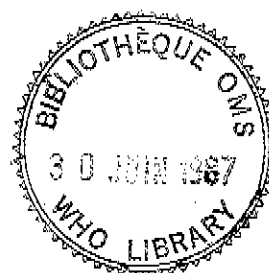


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SPECIAL
PROGRAMME
ON **AIDS**

REPORT ON THE
MEETING ON NEWLY IDENTIFIED
HIV-RELATED RETROVIRUSES

GENEVA
11-12 FEBRUARY 1987



WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

APRIL 1987



retroviridae

HTLV-III

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Report of the meeting	2
ANNEX 1 - List of participants	3
ANNEX 2 - List of presentations available	8

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The Meeting on Newly Identified HIV-related Retroviruses was convened on 11 and 12 February 1987 with the objectives of: (1) facilitating a free exchange of information among the main groups of scientists involved (Annex 1); (2) eventually using shared knowledge of the basic virology, immunology, serodiagnosis, epidemiology, and clinical aspects of the HIV-related retroviruses as the basis for effective prevention and control strategies.

The meeting was opened on behalf of the Director-General by Mr W. W. Furth, Assistant Director-General, who referred to international collaboration, involving the finest scientific minds working for a common cause, as the key to the prevention and control of AIDS.

Professor G. Papaevangelou was elected Chairman of the meeting. Twenty-six presentations were made during the meeting; by prior agreement with participants, abstracts submitted to the secretariat are available upon request (Annex 2).

The meeting unanimously agreed to issue the following statement:

"A meeting on newly identified HIV-related retroviruses was held in Geneva on 11 and 12 February 1987. Discussions took place on virology, immunology, serodiagnosis and clinical and epidemiological aspects of viruses isolated principally in West Africa.

1. HIV-related retroviruses: A category of viruses has been identified which is related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) but is more closely related to a group of primate retroviruses, STLV-III. Within that category, some isolates appear to be associated with AIDS and some isolates appear to be of low pathogenicity. The relationships among the isolates are not yet clear and should be studied in more detail. More generally, knowledge regarding retroviruses in the world is incomplete.

2. Further research is required in several areas, including virology, immunology, serology, pathogenicity, the clinical and pathological aspects, and epidemiology.

3. The implications of HIV-related retroviruses:

(a) Blood transfusion systems should be aware of the epidemiology of the HIV-related retroviruses when establishing and reviewing national or regional donor screening policies.

(b) The impression exists that HIV-related retroviruses are transmitted in a fashion similar to HIV, although the epidemiology is not yet well defined. Therefore, at present, the same precautions as those used in preventing HIV infection are recommended for the prevention of infection with HIV-related retroviruses.

4. The role of WHO:

(a) WHO should play an active role in information and reagent exchange.

(b) Working groups should be established to deal with the following issues:

(i) The development of criteria for comparing HIV-related retroviruses;

(ii) The development of recommendations to WHO regarding a system to help in ensuring the international exchange of reagents, including virus isolates and sera.

(c) In collaboration with the governments of countries in West and Central Africa, WHO should organize a meeting to review the epidemiological, virological and prevention and control aspects of HIV and HIV-related retroviruses."

ANNEX 1

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LIST OF ABSTRACTS AVAILABLE

An STLV-III-related human retrovirus, HTLV-IV: immunovirological and serological studies

Francis BARIN

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Prevalence of HIV- and STLV-III-related human T-lymphotropic retrovirus (HTLV-IV) in several populations of Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa

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³Institut Pasteur and National Institute of Public Health, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

A new human retrovirus isolate of West African origin (SBL-6669) and its relationship to HTLV-IV, LAV-II and HTLV-IIIB

G. BIBERFELD, J. ALBERT, U. BREDBERG, B. BOETTIGER, F. CHIOLDI, E. FENYO and E. NORRBY
Departments of Immunology and Virology, National Bacteriological Laboratory, Stockholm, and Department of Virology, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

A seroepidemiological study of HIV infections in Guinea

K. KOUROUMA

National Committee for the Prevention of AIDS (coordinator, K. Kourouma), with the collaboration of F. Brun-Vezinet, C. Kathama, N. Harzic, M.A. Rey and M.C. Dazza

Presentation to the meeting on recently identified HIV-related retroviruses

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Preliminary results from a seroepidemiological study of AIDS carried out in Guinea Bissau

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Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Lisbon, Portugal

Clinical manifestations of LAV Type 2 (HIV-2) infection, Paris - 1986

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HIV infections in rural areas of West Africa (Guinea Bissau)

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Presentation to the meeting on recently identified HIV-related retroviruses

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Preliminary studies on HIV- and HIV-related viruses in the Gambia

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Seroepidemiology of HTLV-4 and HTLV-3 in West Africa

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The prevalence of HIV-II infection among blood donors and different exposed groups

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AIDS-related retroviruses in West Africa

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Clinical, haematological and immunological evaluation of individuals exposed to human T-lymphotropic virus type IV (HTLV-IV)

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