



EXPERT COMMITTEE ON BIOLOGICAL STANDARDIZATION
Geneva, 17-21 February 2003

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH WHO REFERENCE REAGENTS FOR
IN VITRO ASSAYS OF CJD SPECIMENS**

**WHO Working Group on International Reference Materials
for Diagnosis and Study of TSEs**

SUMMARY

Under the direction of the WHO Working Group on International Reference Materials for Diagnosis and Study of TSEs, the WHO has sponsored the preparation of candidate reference materials consisting of 10% w/v homogenates of brain from 1 normal human, 2 sporadic cases of CJD, and 1 case of vCJD. All cases were homozygous for methionine at codon 129 of the PrP gene. The sporadic cases were selected, on the basis preliminary local sampling of the brains, to represent two different common types based on the glycoform patterns of the PrP amyloid on Western blots. In both cases when larger, 100g, samples of brain were homogenized, both glycoform types were found to be represented. The glycoform pattern for vCJD was unique to vCJD and remained unchanged in the 100g sample. Six laboratories assayed the homogenates for relative concentration of PrP amyloid by Western blot. The ranking of the concentration was similar for five of the participants with

© World Health Organization 2002

All rights reserved. Publications of the World Health Organization can be obtained from Marketing and Dissemination, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland (tel: +41 22 791 2476; fax: +41 22 791 4857; email: bookorders@who.int). Requests for permission to reproduce or translate WHO publications – whether for sale or for noncommercial distribution – should be addressed to Publications, at the above address (fax: +41 22 791 4806; email: permissions@who.int).

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

The mention of specific companies or of certain manufacturers' products does not imply that they are endorsed or recommended by the World Health Organization in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned. Errors and omissions excepted, the names of proprietary products are distinguished by initial capital letters.

The World Health Organization does not warrant that the information contained in this publication is complete and correct and shall not be liable for any damages incurred as a result of its use.