

Please address any reply to
THE DIRECTOR, and quote:-

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4 January 1989

Dear Dave

With a further meeting now imminent on European standardisation in DNA profiling I thought it worth summarising where we left off at the Sunbury meeting. Points needing further consideration were listed as follows:

1. Flexible alternatives to DNA profiling. Traditional grouping should not be abandoned
2. Core package of probes
3. Standardisation of restriction enzyme
4. Standard molecular weight markers
5. Population data
6. Records for comparative purposes
7. QA and proficiency testing - QC of commercial products
8. Legal constraints
9. New technology
10. Reporting probabilities

Some of the people at Sunbury wanted to decide there and then on an enzyme and a core package of probes. But it was agreed instead, at my suggestion as Chairman, that a study group (yourself, Professor Brinkman, Dr Kloosterman) should prepare a discussion paper by about year-end 1988 for another meeting to be held early in 1989. You are acting as secretary.

The discussion paper will set out the advantages and disadvantages for a range of possibilities, ranging from the FBI package to the Cellmark multilocus approach and including at least the enzymes Hae III and Hinf I. The Munster meeting will be in difficulty if too strong a commitment to any one alternative is adopted before the debate has taken place, of course, so I hope you share any view that it will be wise to leave plenty of room for discussion.

In case we are faced with a lack of standardisation across the Atlantic Ocean, it would be helpful to have suggestions on how we might work towards compatibility with our American colleagues in the future. In addition, since

European laboratories are already on slightly different paths, it would be helpful to see suggestions on how laboratories might ease the pain of transition from one technology package to another in order to get the benefits of standardisation, ie. database compatibility and an agreed regime within which companies can innovate.

Please let us know if you need any further input from the MPFSL. By copy of this letter I will remind those who attended the Sunbury meeting to let the study group have any comments they wish to make if they have not already done so. In return, although I realise time is passing, I hope that those attending the February meeting in Munster will receive copies of the report a day or two ahead of the meeting itself.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Brian

Dr B Sheard
Director

Copies:

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Prof U Rossi
Prof E D'Aloia
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