



January 5, 2009

Dr. Ayanda Ntsaluba
National Director General of Health
Department of Health

Dear Dr. Ntsaluba

**RE: BUDGETS FOR THE IMPENDING /
REMAINING 9 EXPERIMENTS**

Once again thank you for the telephone conference yesterday. I am writing in response to your request of a few days ago i.e. last Sunday 18th August 2002 when we spoke over the telephone. You requested an update on the budgets for the other 9 experiments. I have managed to communicate with everyone concerned via the telephone as well as e-mail. I have to point out that these budget figures that follow are estimates and will always be subject to the rand value depreciation – the sooner we get on perhaps the better.

The proposals for the experiments are described in full in the ‘PRESIDENTIAL AIDS ADVISORY PANEL REPORT’ March 2001.

9.5 Proposal 4 – Peter Duesberg : R80,000

This experiment was proposed by **Peter Duesberg** and it is described on page 95 of the panel report. I estimate that this experiment would probably require some 12 months to be completed. This experiment would consist of following up a cohort of 400 – 500 HIV positive South African army recruits (soldiers).

9.6 Proposal 5 – Dr. Eleni Papadopoulos-Eleopoulos and Dr. Val Turner (Prof. Mhlongo as co-ordinator to accompany an adjudicator) R300,000

Preadsorption and Virus Isolation Experiments - The need for a Gold Standard in the diagnosis of HIV infection. **Team leader in this proposal is: Dr. Eleni Papadopoulos-Eleopoulos**

Proposers: Dr. Eleni Papadopoulos-Eleopoulos and Dr. Val Turner. This experiment would probably require at most no more than 6 weeks. The bare details of the experiment are described on page 95 – 100 of the panel report.

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9.7 Proposal 6 Questionable African AIDS / HIV Statistics – Epidemiologist : Prof. Gordon Stewart & Dr. Christian Fiala & Prof. Charles Gesheker R150,000

Team leader in this experiment: Prof. Gordon Stewart

I (Prof. Sam Mhlongo) am a full participant in this statistical and Epidemiological Study. This study cannot be carried out without a visit to Geneva for 2 - 3 days to look at UNAIDS data.

9.8 Proposal 7: Proposed investigation of the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS : R200,000

Team Leader: Prof. Gordon Stewart.

Other members of the team are: Prof. Sam Mhlongo, Dr. Christian Fiala, Prof. Charles Gesheker and Dr. Roberto Giraldo.

The procedures are described on page 100 – 103 of the panel report.

9.9 Proposal 8: Study to find out the real meaning of HIV Tests : R200,000

Team Leader: Dr. Roberto Giraldo

Other members of the team: Dr. Harvey Bialy

9.10 Proposal 9: To test the reliability of one of the main laboratory methods currently used to quantify HIV in the blood of seropositive individuals - using the Electron Microscope.

Team Leader: Prof. Etienne de Harven. : R200,000

PROF. ETIENNE DE HARVEN WOULD NEED THE CO-OPERATION OF PROF. BARRY SCHOUB AND DR. CAROLINE WILLIAMSON TO CARRY OUT THIS EXPERIMENT. SINCE BOTH BARRY SCHOUB AND CAROLINE WILLIAMSON WORK IN GOVERNMENT OWNED PUBLIC FACILITIES, THEY NEED TO BE INSTRUCTED TO THIS EFFECT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PROF. DE HARVEN IS READY TO FLY TO SOUTH AFRICA AT SHORT NOTICE.

Other members of the team: None. The aim of the experiment is described on page 104 - 106.

9.11 Proposal 10: To determine which is more harmful - HIV or Anti HIV drugs?

Team Leader: Dr. David Rasnick

Other members of the team: Dr. Claus Koehnlein. To get 16 chimpanzees will turn out to be quite expensive. This experiment will probably cost **R1,000,000.**

The approximate total required is roughly R20 million rand.

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SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD!

Out of the 10 experiments, only two would last longer than 6 - 12 months. These are experiment 9.5 Proposal 4 Peter Duesberg and 9.11 Proposal 10 David Rasnick and Claus Koehnlein. I am not in any way suggesting that these experiments be delayed, I am merely stating here how long the experiments may take. I would strongly recommend that all the experiments be started at the same time and immediately. **Put another way, those team leaders who are ready to answer the call to commence their experiment should be given the green light immediately.** I am aware that the first experiment (Dr. Harvey Bialy, Dr. Stock, Dr. Alagon, Dr. Barry Schoub has virtually started as per our telephone conference of yesterday August 19th 2002.

Urgency :

I am sending copies to all interested parties in these experiments – in particular:

- Prof. Gordon Stewart
- Prof. Ettiene De Harven
- Dr. Eleni Papadopoulos-Eleapoulos
- Dr. Valender Turner
- Dr. David Rasnick
- Dr. Claus Koenlein
- Dr. Christian Fiala
- Prof. Charles Geshekter
- Dr. Roberto Giraldo
- Dr. Peter Duesberg
- Dr. Harvey Bialy

I hope this information will be of great assistance in your meeting with the Ministers shortly. If you require any additional information please let me know as soon as possible. I should add an reiterate that all the above participants are ready to commence the experiments as from the 20th September 2002 so that the President, the cabinet and the people of South Africa may begin to have some answers before Christmas December 25th 2002. Lets go!

Yours sincerely

Prof. SWP Mhlongo
Head, Chief Family Practitioner & Specialist
Family Medicine & Primary Health Care

PS: For your information, I need to point out that the current experiment discussed in yesterdays telephone conference, although very relevant in the debate will not carry much weight if any at all unless Proposal 5 Experiment is carried out at the same time i.e. preadsorption and virus isolation experiment: Eleni Papadopoulos-Eleopoulos and Val Turner. The experiment we discussed yesterday is to some extent a repeat of Kashala et al experiment under the title: Infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 (HIV 1) and Human T Cell Lymphotropic Viruses among Leprosy Patients and Contacts: Correlation between HIV-1 Cross-Reactivity and Anitbodies to Lipoarabinomannan. The Journal of Infectious Diseases 1994;169:296-304.