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The Bowman Gray

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School of Medicine

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Department of Medicine

Section on Rheumatology

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(919) 748-4209

May 23, 1985

Dr. John R. A. Simoons  
The Rheumatoid Disease Foundation  
5140 Revere Road  
Parkwood  
Durham, NC 27713

Dear John:

Thank you for your letters of 5-20-85 and 5-21-85. I hope by now you have received a copy of my letter of 5-20-85 to Dr. Regelson and are in agreement with what I need to know concerning his needs to obtain the synovial fluids and so forth. What with receiving letters from Mr. Chapdelaine, you, Dr. Pybus, and interested patients, I know you will understand that it is somewhat difficult to keep up with the correspondence and to make sure no one misunderstands what is going on. I believe my letter to Dr. Pybus may have misled you and I am therefore writing at this time to reassure you that the main purpose of my statements was to tell you that I am carefully recording the symptoms of the "Herxheimer" reactions and if I did not stress to him in the letter and to you that I have reformed the patients, the CRU personnel and my staff that your group feels that these symptoms are transient, can be expected to diminish, and may herald a good response to the drug, that does not mean I have not done it. I have again informed all of these people about this and in fact had done so prior to receiving your letter of 5-21-85. I would hope this will put everyone's fears to rest concerning this but would also hope you would feel free to continue to write me about it if somebody does not understand this. I certainly understand your group's wish to increase the enrollment and we will continue to attempt to do this through the usual methods. I believe more publicity would not help and do not intend to do anything in that way.

I appreciate your sending me Dr. Franson's articles. You will note that some of his early work was done with Dr. Moselev Waite, who is our Chairman of Biochemistry, and has been quite active in exploring phospholipases in neutrophil membranes. It would be a fairly simple matter to pursue these measurements in our patient's neutrophils prior to going on the study and then after they are on the drug. This would be useful since we would not have to obtain synovial fluid to do this and I will be happy to explore this matter with Dr. Waite or to develop protocols for giving these cells to Dr. Franson should you rather we send the cells to him. You will remember that I mentioned doing both these type studies and neutrophil arachodonic metabolic studies on these patients at the time we began the study and at that time your group was not particularly interested in exploring such studies apart from the clinical protocol. It is interesting to note that you

Dr. John R. A. Simoons

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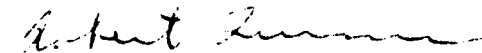
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have contracted with the people at MCV to follow up some of their early work with phospholipases and I will look forwrd to hearing what exactly you would like us to do concerning this.

You mentioned in your letter that you would like to have a "confidential" report of the patients on a monthly basis to keep your Board of Physicians informed concerning the progress of the study. If you would like, I will have Ms. Crater send you our weekly reports as she prepares them, which will keep you up to date on the general matters concerning the study. You may then feel free to call her as you have done in the past for any sort of follow-up you would like to have to report to your people.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with you on the study. I hope you will either call me or write to me within the next several days and perhaps at that time we can discuss any areas which might be of concern so we can proceed with the study in a way which will accomplish the study in the best scientific matter and hopefully satisfy the majority of the people involved.

Yours truly,



Robert Turner, M.D.

RT/mam