

**Memorandum**

Date May 26, 1983

From Chief, Epidemiology Section
AIDS Activity

Subject Implementation of Cooperative Agreement with
San Francisco City/County Health Department

To Director
AIDS Activity

On May 23, 1983 Dr. Darrow and I met with Dr. Erwin Braff, Dr. Selma Dritz, Mr. Don Hawkins, Mr. Paul O'Malley, and Mr. Carlos Rendon to discuss implementation of the proposed cooperative agreement for AIDS research with the San Francisco City/County Health Department. The focus of the agreement will be a study of homosexual male patients seen at the San Francisco City Clinic between 1978 and 1980 and enrolled in studies of the prevalence and incidence of hepatitis B virus infections. Of the 6,800 men in this cohort, 56 have been reported to have illnesses meeting the CDC surveillance definition for AIDS.

As one part of the study, we will continue to monitor the incidence of AIDS in the entire cohort. This will require periodic comparisons of the names of the members of the cohort against the national AIDS case list. We will then attempt to locate those members of the cohort who have developed AIDS, so that interview data and laboratory specimens can be obtained.

A second part of the study will be a more intensive investigation of a sample of the 6,800 men. The sample will first be surveyed to establish the place of residence and health status of its members. Those members residing in the San Francisco Bay area will then be interviewed for AIDS risk factors, examined for signs of AIDS, and followed prospectively. Serial specimens for laboratory testing will be obtained. Those members of the sample who do not develop AIDS can be used as a control group for those members of the entire cohort who do develop AIDS.

Funding available for the cooperative agreement in FY 1983 will be used in a pilot project to determine the feasibility of the study. The scope of the study in subsequent years will depend on the results of the pilot study and the level of funding during these years. We discussed the following aspects of the pilot study:

1. AIDS incidence in the entire cohort

To establish the incidence of AIDS in the 6800 men, the names of the men will have to be periodically checked against both the national and San Francisco AIDS case lists. We therefore proposed that the names of the 6800 men and any relevant information from their VD clinic record, as well as the San Francisco AIDS case list, be placed in computer files. These files can be developed as part of the management information system being implemented by the Health Department in collaboration with the VD Control Division at CDC. To maintain confidentiality, names of members of the cohort will be released to the CDC only when a cohort member develops AIDS.

The Health Department will be responsible for interviewing cohort members who develop AIDS while residing in the San Francisco Bay area. The interviews must be coordinated with those being done as part of the studies of Dr. Andrew Moss. The CDC will be responsible for interviews of cohort members who develop AIDS while residing in other cities. Specimens for laboratory testing will be collected from all AIDS cases from the cohort.

2. Sampling the cohort

We proposed that a 10% sample of the cohort be considered for more intensive investigation. Perhaps half of the sample could come from the group of approximately 800 men who entered the hepatitis B prevalence study. The other half could be a random sample of the other 6,000 members of the cohort.

3. Establishment of residence and health status of members of the sample

The Health Department will attempt to establish the most recent residence and health status of the members of the sample. For those members who have died, we wish to obtain information on cause of death. The CDC can assist in coordinating this investigation with other health departments.

4. Interviews of members of the sample

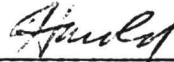
The Health Department and the CDC will collaborate in developing an interview form to be used for the members of the sample living in the San Francisco Bay area. The Health Department will be responsible for conducting the interviews; the CDC will be responsible for analyzing the interview data.

5. Medical evaluation of members of the sample

The Health Department will be responsible for screening members of the sample for symptoms or signs suggestive of AIDS. When medically indicated, persons may be referred to other facilities, such as San Francisco General Hospital, for more complete evaluation.

6. Collection of specimens for laboratory testing

The Health Department will collect specimens needed for mutually-agreed-upon tests. Complete blood counts can be done locally. The Health Department would then prefer to ship specimens to CDC for further testing.



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