DEPARTMENTS OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTER
ATLANTA 5, GEORGIA

December 10, 1953

TO: Members of Advisory Committee, National Gamma Globulin Evaluation Program


The National Gamma Globulin Evaluation Program is rapidly drawing to a close. As has been outlined in our monthly reports, the program has been operating on schedule. Analysis of the results is already far advanced. The final report must be completed on or before February 1, 1954, with release by February 7.

The results of this study are awaited generally with great interest. The Association of State and Territorial Health Officers decided at its recent meeting to await the publication of this report before considering recommendations concerning the distribution and administration of gamma globulin in 1954.

I am, therefore, calling the final meeting of the Advisory Committee in Atlanta for a three-day period, Wednesday through Friday, January 27 to 29, 1954:

The following outline for the final report is proposed:

1. Introduction, Organization and General Plan of Study.

2. Mass Prophylaxis:

   Descriptions of each epidemic in areas where mass prophylaxis was employed, with comparative data from other areas in 1953 and from past experience.

3. Modification of Paralysis:

   Detailed analyses of severity of disease in patients receiving gamma globulin:
   a. In selected mass prophylaxis areas.
   b. In multiple case households.

4. Administrative Aspects:

   Descriptive material summarizing practical experience and problems encountered in various states.

5. Discussion, Summary and Conclusions.
Appendices:

1. List of all participating personnel.

2. Detailed descriptions of epidemics in approximately 12 mass prophylaxis areas where CDC personnel participated in the investigation.

3. A study of certain aspects of the abridged method of muscle evaluation.

4. Certain detailed tables supporting summary tables in the main report.

Before the middle of January, each member of the Committee will receive drafts of the first four sections of the main report and insofar as possible, copies of each appendix. This will be a formidable document. We will make every effort to get these drafts in your hands well in advance of the meeting.

We propose that the actual wording of the Discussion, Summary and Conclusions Section be prepared by the Committee itself, in Atlanta. To achieve this, we propose the following procedure:

January 27 9:00 AM:

Full Committee to review material already distributed and arrive at decisions by Sections: a) Include in final report; b) Reject from report; c) Modify in specific manner. A full morning should be devoted to this task. Our staff can then be detailed to prepare necessary modifications. Comments in writing submitted prior to or at the time of the meeting will facilitate such necessary modifications.

Then the Committee divide into three subcommittees to prepare the texts of the Discussion, Summary and Conclusion Section as follows:

Subcommittee A: Mass Prophylaxis

The effect of gamma globulin on the course of epidemics in areas where mass prophylaxis was employed in 1953.

Subcommittee B: Modification

The effect of gamma globulin in the modification of the paralytic disease, both in mass prophylaxis areas and in multiple case households.

Subcommittee C: Administrative Aspects

Appropriate comments on methods employed by States in distribution of gamma globulin.
January 28:

Morning: Sessions of Subcommittees

Afternoon: Session of full Committee to report progress and present problems requiring discussion and resolution, to be followed by further subcommittee meetings.

January 29:

Full Committee meeting to decide on and adopt final report, methods of publication, and news release.

Adjournment and Termination of Committee.

It should be understood that the report is to represent the considered judgment of the full Committee. It is earnestly hoped that unanimous agreement can be reached on the interpretation of the data presented. If a difference of opinion develops that cannot be resolved, provision should be made for minority statements on certain specific points or for a minority report, if necessary.

It should be emphasized that the charge to the Committee is the Evaluation of Gamma Globulin as it was employed in 1953. As yet the Committee has not been requested from appropriate authority to make any specific recommendations regarding national policy in the allocation, distribution or utilization of gamma globulin in 1954. Therefore, our present responsibility is limited to the analysis and interpretation of the data collected.

It is visualized that the report will be a scientific document that can be widely circulated and published. If, prior to the meeting, a specific request is received for recommendations on national policy, you will immediately be notified and changes in the procedure of the Committee meeting will be required. Any set of recommendations would, of course, be confidential and separate from the scientific report.

I would appreciate receiving any comments, suggestions or criticisms of the plans outlined herein.

Would you kindly notify us of your proposed plans for travel, including the railroad or airline you wish to use, so that we may send the necessary transportation requests. We will be happy to make hotel reservations for you upon request. Please let us know your expected time of arrival.

Alexander D. Langmuir, M. D.
Chairman