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Publication/Creation

[1990]

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Pharm

Dr. Virginia Beridge
Department Of Public
Health
Keppel Inst. Tropical
Medicine
GB- London
Great Britain

Stockholm-Bromma, August 28, 1990
IB

Dear Dr. Beridge,

We have developed a simple standard assay that we believe should be important in AIDS research. The assay determines the inhibition of reverse transcriptase. This sensitive assay is radio-enzymatic: an analogue to thymidine triphosphate labelled with radio-iodine is incorporated into a poly-dT chain, using as a matrix poly-A anchored to a plastic bead. The radioactivity on the bead is a measure of the remaining activity of the highly purified genetically engineered reverse transcriptase included in the kit (no viral material included).

The assay has been optimized to detect and to titrate blocking antibodies to HIV 1 reverse transcriptase, but another interesting possibility would be to screen substances for potential inhibitory activity, for use as drugs. In the present version all drugs and substances interfering with reverse transcriptase activity could be studied except those being analogous to nucleotides other than thymidine, as the matrix on which the reverse transcriptase acts is poly-A. Later we hope also to have other matrices available, to screen for substances mimicking the other bases.

Notice that this assay is entirely for research purposes, and at the present time it should not be used in any form for the management of patients.

If you would be interested in this assay, please send me a letter, so that we can provide you with further information and also with a kit for evaluation.

I hope that you will find this proposal interesting, and look forward to your comments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "I. Björklund".

Ingegerd Björklund

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