



[REDACTED]

6 March 2020

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Freedom of Information request: FOI2020/00034

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on the 10 February in which you requested the following:

Your request:

As part of research studies into blood borne viruses, when was the first instance of Hepatitis (NANB) identified?

Our response

I can confirm UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) do not hold the information relevant to your request.

In looking at your request, we have investigated whether the Medical Research Council (MRC) holds any information relevant to your request as the UKRI council that has supported research in this area.

Although the MRC did fund research into blood borne viruses and hepatitis, during the time hepatitis NANB was being investigated, it did not collate information on all research studies in this area, either in the UK or internationally. Therefore, UKRI does not hold any information which would help to address the question of when was the first instance of Hepatitis (NANB) identified as part of research studies.

We have explored a number of online resources which discuss the issue which may be of interest. These include:

Research papers available on PubMed, including

Feinstone S. M. et al. (1975) 'Transfusion-Associated Hepatitis Not Due to Viral Hepatitis Type a or B', The New England Journal of Medicine, 292: 767-70

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/163436>

Online articles including

'Story of Discovery: Hepatitis C: from non-A, non-B hepatitis to a cure, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases'

<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/news/archive/2016/story-discovery-hepatitis-c-from-non-a-non-b-hepatitis-cure>

None of the resources we identified suggested that the MRC funded the research that led to its initial discovery and which might indicate that more relevant information might be held.

In view of the dates indicated by these resources, we have checked our archives. Much of the information relating to the 1970's has been transferred to The National Archives (TNA). Having searched the TNA catalogue using the term *nonA-nonB*, we identified one file relating to this area: *FD 23/3750: Hepatitis: papers, notes and correspondence concerning research into nonA-nonB hepatitis*, covering the period 1978-1978, which may be of interest. Further information on this file and how to access it, is available on the TNA Discovery catalogue: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3123679>.

Other historic files may also be accessible via the catalogue <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>.

Finally, both Europe PubMed Central (<https://europepmc.org/>) and Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.com/>) may help you to identify relevant published literature, including papers reporting on hepatitis NANB. The names of researchers supported or reference numbers for MRC grants may help identify additional information via TNA catalogue.

If you have any queries regarding our response or you are unhappy with the outcome of your request and wish to seek an internal review of the decision, please contact:

Head of Information Governance


Email: foi@ukri.org or infogovernance@ukri.org

Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are still not content with the outcome of the internal review, you may apply to refer the matter to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review procedure provided by UKRI. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/>

If you wish to raise a complaint regarding the service you have received or the conduct of any UKRI staff in relation to your request, please see UKRI's complaints policy: <https://www.ukri.org/about-us/policies-and-standards/complaints-policy/>

Yours sincerely,


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