235-6116

THE WELLCOME TRUST

183 Euston Road
London, NW1 2BE

Telephone 071-611 8888
Fax 071-611 8545

11th May 1993

Dr John B Scythes
Community Initiative for AIDS Research
32 Beaty Avenue
Toronto
Canada M6K 3B4

Dear Dr Scythes

Thank you for your letter of 20th April. As you will see I have recently moved to the Wellcome Trust and your letter has only just reached me.

Since the publication of the paper that you quote there have been a number of developments in the identification of rabbit CD4 and CD8. Miyasaka's group in Tokyo have produced a monoclonal antibody, named KEN4, which recognises CD4, and we have shown that the antigen recognised by this antibody is present on RL-5. The reference for this paper is Kotani et al. J Immunol Meth 157, 241-252 (1993). KEN-4 is now commercially available from Serotec, who have recently opened an office in Toronto. We have been collaborating with them in the marketing of a number of antibodies to rabbit leucocyte antigens, which may be of interest to you.

We also have some preliminary data that 12.C7 recognises a molecule of the appropriate size for CD8, adding weight to the preliminary identification of 12.C7 as being anti-CD8. Further, Dr Tom Kindt's group have been attempting to clone rabbit CD8 and, while they have not yet been completely successful, they have probes which show a tissue distribution identical to that found with 12.C7. You may be aware that they have recently cloned rabbit CD4 (Hague et al. PNAS 89 7963-7967 (1992)).

Dr Kindt's group is working on a model of AIDS in the rabbit and if this is of interest to you I suggest that you contact him directly at the NIH.

Yours sincerely

J M Wilkinson