

Cooperation agreement Sanquin and the Finnish Red Cross

On 25 August 2004 the Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation (Sanquin) of the Netherlands and the Finnish Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (FBTS), have agreed to expand their cooperation on the development and production of medicinal products derived from human plasma.

The Finnish Red Cross has decided to discontinue manufacturing of plasma products in their Helsinki plant and to enter into an agreement with Sanquin for the manufacture and supply to the Finnish market of plasma derivatives to be made from plasma collected in Finland. Both Sanquin and the Finnish Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service are not-for-profit organisations that provide the blood supply in their respective countries. The two organisations have already a longstanding co-operation in the area of plasma derivatives.

A similar strategic collaboration already exists between Sanquin and the Central Department for Fractionation (CAF-DCF) of the Belgian Red Cross. The Finnish plasma will be fractionated into intermediates in the new plant in Brussels, with processing into final products at the Sanquin facility in Amsterdam.

The Finnish Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service will continue to be responsible for the collection of blood and plasma and for the production and supply of labile blood components in Finland.

Dr Theo Buunen, chairman of the Executive Board of Sanquin underlines the importance of the agreement for the principle of European self-sufficiency in supplying plasma products from non-paid blood donations. "Two not-for-profit organisations have found a way to work together and ensure the continuity of supply of plasma products from Finnish blood donations to the Finnish market. Such collaborations are important to bring to the not-for-profit sector the economy of scale needed to answer changing market conditions."

The Finnish Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service

The Finnish Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service provides blood supply services centrally for all of Finland by supplying hospitals with blood products for patients' care. The Blood Transfusion Service also offers hospitals various laboratory and expert services; among others, examinations associated with blood transfusion treatments and organ transplantation. The Blood Transfusion Service also houses the Bone Marrow Donor Register and the Placental Blood Service. The Blood Transfusion Service employs about 500 people.

Sanquin

The Sanquin Blood Supply Foundation (Sanquin) is a Dutch non-profit organisation that provides blood supplies and promotes transfusion

medicine, in a manner that meets the most stringent quality, safety and efficiency requirements. Sanquin provides products and services, carries out basic and developmental research and provides education. Sanquin employs about 3,000 people.

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