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APPLICATION FOR PROJECT GRANT

1. Title of project

identification of enteric pathogens using specific DNA probes as an aid to clinical and epidemiological investigations

2. Investigators

Dr. Shah M. Faruque Mr. Qazi Shafi Ahmad Mr. A.R.M. Abdul Alim

3. Consultant

pr. Zia Uddin Ahmed

4. Project coordinator

Dr. S. Tzipori
Associate Director
Laboratory Sciences Division

5. Starting date

January 01, 1990

6. Date of completion

December 31, 1992

7. Budget requested

US\$ 263,546

8. Funding source

9. Aims of the project

9.1. <u>General aim</u>:

The objective of this protocol is to determine the frequency and clinical and epidemiological significance of pathogenic enteric bacteria and viruses, which will contribute to an understanding of the mode of transmission of these organisms and indicate possible prevention strategies.

9.2. Specific aim:

a) Establishment of appropriate techniques for use of DNA probes and training of staff.

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- b) Application of E. coli DNA probes to studies on persistent diarrhoea (in collaboration with scientists from CSD).
- c) Application of DNA probes to identify specific virulence factors of diarrhoeagenic E. coli in strains which have been collected from previous studies and have not been analysed:
- d) Application of new probes, as they become available for the detection of other enteric pathogens.
- e) Application of non-radioactive probes for the detection of enteric pathogens
- f) Application of DNA probes to major future epidemiological studies.

9.3. Significance

The utilization of specific DNA probes to identify enteric pathogens will help in the assessment of the relative importance different enteric bacteria and virus-mediated diarrhoeal better the population, and will aid in diseases in the mode of transmission and understanding of This will facilitate mechanisms of these microorganisms. development of possible prevention and treatment modalities will also help to decide on research priorities to be addressed in future ICDDR,B investigations.

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10. Background

Enteric bacterial pagthogens present one of the most challenging in microbial pathgenesis: These, together with viruses and certain species of protozoa are responsible for recent years, the acute diarrhoeal diseases worldwide. In improved detection techniques have revealed that in addition the previously identified enteric pathogens, such as strains Shigella, Vibrio, Salmonella and Escherichia coli, a wide range other bacterial species can also cause diarrhoeal diseases. include pathogenic strains of Campylobacter, Yersinia, Plesiomonas, Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus cereus, Clostridia and Bacteroides (1,2). Diarrhoeagenic enteric viruses and certain protozoal parasites also contribute significantly occurrence of acute diarrhoeal diseases. Efforts are being made to improve the diagnosis; and treatment of these diseases and devise strategies for their ultimate control and prevention. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to conduct studies the relative importance and abundance of different enteric pathogens, hence reliable and accurate identification techniques essential.

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Escherichia coli is a common inhabitant of the human (and animal) intestine, and based on routine laboratory tests the saprophytic strains cannot be effectively distinguished from the inherently pathogenic strains (3). Diarrhoeagenic strains of E. coli have been classified into four major categories: Enterotoxigenic

E. coli (ETEC), Enteroinvasive E. coli (EIEC), Enteropathogenic E. coli (EPEC), and Enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) (4). These diarrhoeagenic E. coli cause diarrhoea by at least one or more pathogenic mechanisms: enterotoxin production, enteroinvasion, enteroadherence, and cytotoxin production (4). The pathogenic strains of E. coli can be identified to some extent by biological assays (5,6) or immunoassays (7,8), but these assays are expensive and time consuming, or require specific antisera.

A recent approach to identify diarrhoeagenic E. coli and other pathogens using developments in molecular technology is to identify nucleotide sequences of pathogenic Nucleotide probes determinants directly in specimens, (9-11). have been especially useful in identifying pathogenic strains E. coli, that are virtually indistinguishable phenotypically from non-pathogenic E. coli. The use of nucleotide probes to identify enteric pathogens is based on a combination of gene cloning and nucleic acid hybridization techniques. Gene cloning provides probes for the specific polynucleotide sequence of a pathogenic determinant, and nucleic acid hybridization either with radiolabelled or non-radiolabelled probes involves the use of these probes to search for homologous sequences in the total nucleic acid present in a specimen.,

10.1. <u>DNA probes against pathogenic E. coli</u>

Nucleotide probes have been constructed to identify plasmidencoded genes coding for heat-labile (LT) and heat-stable (ST)

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(12), genes involved in enteroinvasion (13), enterotoxins coding for adherence to tissue culture and human intestinal cells bacteriophage-encoded genes for and DNA to (SLT) (16). DNA probes refer enterotoxins of plasmids containing cloned genes for enteropathogenic determinants or synthetic oligonucleotides are constructed from the nucleotide sequences of these fragments.

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(ETEC) been pathogenesis of enterotoxigenic E. coli frequently reviewed (17,18) and it has been suggested that ETEC two virulence factors () colonization adhesins and enterotoxin production, in order to cause diarrhoea. must adhere to the proximal small bowel which is mediated fimbrial adhesins termed colonization factor antigens (CFAs) or coli surface (CS) fimbriae. A number of adhesins been recognized including CFA I (19), CS1, CS2, CS3, CS4, CS5 and CS6 (20-22). CS1, CS2 and CS3 in various combinations were first reported as a single factor CFA, II (20,22), and CS4, CS5 and reported as colonization factor, PCF 8775 (21), now (23). Genes coding for GFA I and CFA II are plasmidencoded and are closely associated whith genes coding for enterotoxins (24)., Additional colonization factors stable described but it is not clear, if these are distinct reported adhesins (25) These include previously presumably CS6 (26,27) and CFA V presumably CS5 (28). Many have been isolated that do not have any of the CFAs strains

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far described, and hence additional CFAs of ETEC possibly exist and remain to be identified.

ETEC produce LT or ST or both of these toxins, and subclasses ST have also been iden Effied. E. coli LT I cross react serologically with the closely enterotoxins, of Vibrio cholerae (CT) (29) but LT II originally described in E. coli SA 53 is not neutralized by antibodies CT, although LT I and LT II have resemblances with respect several of their biological properties. DNA sequences coding for do not hybridize with genes coding under LT I for which mallow for upto 20% hybridization conditions mismatch (30). Two different types of LT II have been identified These are LT IIa from E. coli $S\Lambda^{'}$ 53 serologically. from E. coli 41 (31). Genes coding for LT I and ST are mediated while genes for LT II are chromosomally encoded DNA probes have been developed for both LT I and LT II genes consist of an 850 base pair fragment in pEWD299 and an 800 pair fragment in pCP2725 respectively. Genes coding the subclasses of ST (ST Ia, ST IB, and ST II) have been identified. Genes for ST Ia are located on a transposon (33) while genes are often associated with plasmids coding for (24), Genes coding for STILE and ST Ib have a sequence divergence of 31% (34) and are thus distinct when examined by DNA hybridization under stringent conditions. Neither the nor the amino acid sequence of ST II has any resemblance to ST Ia

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ST Ib (35,36). Specific DNA probes have been developed to identify genes coding for ST ia, ST Ib, and ST II.

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Enteroinvasive E. coli and Shigella cause dysentery by invading epithelial cells of the colon (37,38). Both Shigella and EIEC possess plasmids of 120-140 Mdali that are necessary for virulence.

There is no specific biochemical test for differentiating between EIEC and non-pathogenic E. colin but a 17 kilo base pair Eco RI digestion fragment of the 140 Mdal plasmid of S. flexneri 5 (M90T) has been found to be specific in identifying EIEC from non-pathogenic strains of E. coli (39). Additional probes for the differentiation between EIEC and Shigella have been derived from the other fragments of the 140 Mdal plasmid of Shigella (40).

Enteropathogenic E. coli (EPEC) demonstrate adherence to the small bowel mucosa in infants and animals, and close adherence has been suggeted as imported for the induction of diarrhoea (41,42) although cytotoxin production has also been identified in EPEC (43,44). HEp-2 cell adherence in tissue culture has been reported to be associated with 50-70 Mdal plasmids in EPEC (43) and with a 60 Mdal plasmid (pMAR-2) in EPEC 2348 (44). The genes for HEp-2 adherence have been cloned and used to identify E. coli that adhere to tissue culture (cells and human intestinal enterocytes in a localized pattern (45,46). A DNA probe for EPEC

adherence factor (EAF) has also been constructed and is both sensitive and specific in identifying EPEC that adhere to HEP-2 cells (47). In addition to EAF, E. coli that adhere to HEP-2 and human intestinal cells in a localized pattern, E. coli also adhere in either an aggregative or diffuse adherence pattern (48). A DNA probe to identify diffusely adherent E. coli has been constructed. This probe is derived from a chromosomal gene encoding a protein associated with the expression of diffuse adherence by E. coli in the HEP-2 cell assay.

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Enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) produce either one or both of two antigenically distinct Shiga-like toxins, SLT I and SLT II, which are encloded by two different bacteriophages 933J and 933W in E. coli 933 (49). The genes for SLT I and SLT II have subsequently been cloned, sequenced and DNA probes specific for each have been constructed (50,51). SLT producing E. coli 0157:H7 also possesses plasmid-encoded fimbriae that promote attachment to intestinal epithelial cells in tissue culture (52). A DNA probe consisting of a 3.4 kilo base pair HindIII fragment of the plasmid pCVD 419 is referred to as the EHEC probe.

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10.2. Current reports on the applicability of E. coli DNA probes
DNA probe technology has been rapidly advancing and has allowed
the development of useful investigative tools. The applicability
of examining clinical specimens using DNA probes for genes
encoding enterotoxins has been tested in stool samples of

patients with diarrhoea in Thailand (12). The hybridization technique has been reported to be useful in accurately detecting presence of ETEC in stool samples. The hybridization also been used to examine water specimens in Thailand and has been reported to be 104 times mor sensitive than random E. coli in the Y-1 adrenal and suckling mouse assays identifying ETEC in water. Generally, DNA probes for toxins, enteroadherence, and enteroinvasiveness have been found comparable or superior to bioassays or immunoassays in detecting enteric pathogens (53,54). Enterotoxin gene probes for LT I, ST Ia, and ST Ib have been used to detect ETEC in isolates Asia (55) and Africa (56). In two separate outbreaks of neonatal diarrhoca in Ohio and in Burma, DNA probes have used successfully to identify EPEC serotypes 0114:NM and 0114:H2. In a community study of bloody diarrhoea, excellent correlation been reported between culture results and hybridization using the ipaC probe for enteroinvasiveness (57). availability of a growning number of new DNA probes, the analysis large numbers of specimens and isolates is now extensively used in diagnostic and epidemiological investigations (53,58).

In a surveillance of diarrhoeal patients conducted at the ICDDR, B during 1979-80, pathogenic agents were identified in only 66% of patients (59) in spite of the application of all the techniques available at ICDDR, B during the period. However, the importance of various categories of diarrhoagenic E. coli, species of Aeromonas, Plesiomonas, Yersinia, Clostridia and Campylobacter,

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various serotypes and serogroups of enteric viruses, and enteric protozoa could not be assessed due mainly to lack of appropriate techniques for detecting these organisms. The application of DNA probes at ICDDR,B will open up an opportunity to conduct the much warranted epidemiological studies to assess the relative contribution of all enteric pathogens to diarrhoea.

10.3. DNA probes available at the ICDDR, B

DNA probes presently available at ICDDR,B for the detection of enteric pathogens are summarized as follows:

<u>Determinant</u>	Recombinant plasmid	Probe DNA (base pairs)
SLT I	pJN37-19	1154
SLT II	pNN110-8	842
EIEC	pMR17	17000
EHEC	pCVD419	3400
DA	pSLM852	450
LA	pJPN16	1000
LT	pCVD403	1300
STh	pCVD402	216

10.4. Need for new DNA probes

The DNA probes presently available at this Centre are mainly useful for the identification of pathogenic E. coli strains. In order to study the importance of other enteric pathogens by the DNA hybridization technique, it is necessary to obtain specific DNA probes against them. The diarrhoeagenic role of species of Aeromonas spp., Plesiomonas, Yersinia, Campylobacter and above all Shigella spp. has to be investigated with a broad perspective.

Enterotoxin and cytotoxin production, and invasiveness have been demonstrated in most of these organisms and these properties can be exploited to identify the pathogenic genes. Detection of specific DNA sequences unique to each of these genes can lead to possible development of new DNA probes.

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In addition to the development of new probes against enteric pathogens, such probes already developed or in the process of development, can be obtained from other advanced laboratories and utilized for epidemiological studies. The use of oligonucleotide probes against the different serotypes of rotaviruses has just been introduced at ICDDR, B, and a DNA probe against Entamoeba histolytica will be available soon. Other probes which will be requested and tried at ICDDR, B include:

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- a) Cryptosporidium spirozoites (Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia)
- b) Attachment-effacement (CVD, Maryland, USA)
- c) Aggregatuve-adherence (CVD, Maryland, USA)
- d) Salmonella (University of Zimbagwee)
- e) Four CFA probes (University of Adelaide, Adelaide, Australia)

11. Outline of experimental methods

11.1. Preparation of probe DNA fragments

Recombinant clones carrying the probes of interest will be grown antibiotic. appropriate nutrient broth containing the Plasmids will be isolated by modifications of the alkaline method of Birnboim and Doly (61) and will be purified by using a commercially available column (NACS-52 PREPAC, BRL). recombinant plasmids will be digested with the appropriate restriction enzymes to excise the inserts and the digests will be The probe DNA fragments electrophoresed in agarose gels. (inserts of recombinant plasmids) will be extracted from agarose as described by electroelution into dalysis bags Mania de et al. (62).

11.2. Preparation of specimens

Colony blots, dot blots, or stool blots will be prepared by standard techniques (62) using nylon membranes (HYBOND-N, AMERSHAM). For each set of specimens, a number of replication will be prepared for hybridization with different probes.

The colonies will be lysed and the DNA denatured by placing the filters on pieces of Whatman 3MM sheets soaked in denaturing solution (0.5 M NaOH, 1.5 M NaCl). The filters will then be neutralized by placing on Whatman 3MM sheets soaked in neutralizing solution (1 M Tris-Ci ph 8.0, 1.5 M NaCl). The DNA will be fixed to the nylon membranes by exposing the membranes to UV light for 2-5 minutes on a UV transilluminator.

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For each set of specimens, a set of master filters carrying live bacterial colonies will be properly stored for possible future studies on the hybridization-positive colonies.

11.3. Radioactive labelling of DNA probes

The probe DNAs will be radioactively labelled by the method of Feinberg and Volgelstein (63,64) with $a^{-32}P^{-}d\Lambda TP$ (10 uCi ul, 3000 Ci/mM, AMERSHAM) and oligonucleotide primers $[P(dN)_{6}]^{-}$ PHARMACIA] using the Large Fragment of E. coli DNA polymerase I. In case of small DNA probes (less than 200 base pairs) the method of choice will be 5'-end labelling with $-^{32}P^{-}d\Lambda TP$ using a 5' end-labelling kit (BRL). Radio-labelled probes will be denatured by boiling followed by quick chilling on ice, before using these for hybridization experiments.

11.4. <u>Hybridization of DNA blots of a </u>

Hybridization with labelled probes will be carried out as described by Maniatis et al. (62). The filters will be

prehybridized in the pesence of denatured salmon sperm DNA to block unspecific binding sites on the filters, and will then be hybridized with the denatured probe DNA for 12-16 hours at the appropriate temperature. After hybridization, the filters will be washed under conditions of increasing stringency.

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11.5. Preparation of autoradiographs

The hybridized filters will be exposed to X-ray films in metal cassettes at -70° C for the appropriate time. In case of weak signals, intensifying screens will be used. The exposed X-ray films will be developed and fixed by standard procedure.

11.6. Non-radioactive labelling of probes

The use of DNA probes as a clinical tool has been hampered by the need to use radioactive isotopes for labelling DNA probes. Nonradioactive DNA-labelling procedures wich provide stable free from special handling precautions and regulations, will Biotinylated nucleotides will be used to label and hybridization will be detected using a commercially available non-radioactive DNA hybridization kit (BRL). The sensitivity of non-radioactive methods will be compared with the radioactive Other newly developed of DNA hybridization. radioactive DNA labelling and detection systems will be similarly and applicability tested for their sensitivity 1.1 diagnosis of enteric pathogens.

12. Ethical implications:

Bacterial isolates obtained from stool specimens of diarrhoeal patients in a surveillance study and from another different project will be used in this study. In addition, only stool specimens and environmental samples will be involved in this investigation. No aspect of this project is in any way harmful to humans.

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SOURCE OF SPECIMENS

The specimens and bacterial isolates to be used in this investigation will be either obtained from diarrhoeal patients in collaboration with the Clinical Sciences Division or from the Vaccine Trial project which has just been concluded and a large number of bacterial isolates have been collected and stored.

1) ICDDR, B Hospital Surveillance Study

A surveillance system has been set up at the Centre in 1979, in which every 25th patient seen is entered into the programme for in-depth clinical, microbiological and demographic work-up. Stool samples from these patients will be tested for the presence of bacterial pathogens.

2) <u>Aetiology of persistent diarrhoea in collaboration with Clinical Sciences Division</u>

About 160 children with persistent diarrhoea and 40 control children with acute diarrhoea will be studied per year. From each child jejunal juice will be collected twice, first at the time of enrollment and then at the end of the treatment or after recovery. Also three stool samples collected at different times at the time of enrollment and an additional sample collected at the end of the treatment or after recovery will be studied for bacterial pathogens from all patients.

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- 3) <u>Diagnostic service for persistent diarrhoea patients</u>
 At least one stool specimen will be studied for all bacterial pathogens from approximately 300 children with persistent diarrhoea seen at the Centre every year who are not entered into study 2.
- 4) Aetiology of non-Shigella dysenteriae in collaboration with Clinical Sciences Division

 Stool specimens from 100 patients with non-Shigella dysenteriae and samples from 200 controls, half of which are cases with Shigella dysenteriae and the other half watery diarrhoea will be studied.
- E. coli diarrhoea in cholera vaccine trial (CVT) study 5) Approximately 200,000 people vaccinated with oral cholera vaccine or given placebo in 1985 in Matlab were followed up for development of diarrhoea. From those individuals who developed diarrhoea, 3 separate E. coli colonies and a pool 5 have been stored (8235 patients). E. coli colonies have also been stored from the stools of mothers of these children (2304 mothers). We plan to test these E. coli all categories of diarrhoeagenic E. coli to find out their in this population. This study will complement incidence other studies which had been generated as a consequence of and will utilize all the data with reference to location, geographical age-distribution, seasonality, association with breastfeeding. The study will have a bias toward severe cases of diarrhoea.

PLAN OF LABORATORY WORKS: 1-3 YEARS

First year:

- a) Hybridization of colony blots with DNA probes for SLT I, SLT II, EHEC, EIEC, ST, LT, DA and LA. The bacterial isolates consist of bacteria isolated and stored from two previous studies on diarrhoeal patients. In addition, bacterial isolates from stool specimens and jejunal fluid of diarrhoeal patients under an on-going protocol will be used.
- Hospital surveillance: 3 E. coli isolates from each of 400 patients
- Persistent diarrhoea (research): 800 stool specimens
- Vaccine Trial project: 15,000 bacterial isolates
- b) Every 10th colony found positive by using DNA probes will be tested by possible biological assays.

Second year:

- a) Continuation of colony hybridization:
- Hospital surveillance: 9,700 stool specimens
- Persistent diarrhoea (research): 400 jejunal fluid
- Vaccine Trial project: 15,000 bacterial isolates

Third year

- a) Continuation of colony hybridization:
- Vaccine Trial project: 15,000 bacterial isolates
- Persistent diarrhoea (diagnostic): Possible application of new probes to examine 350 stool specimens

- b) Comparison of colony hybridization results with results obtained from biological assays conducted on the same strains under a different protocol.
- c) Testing the applicability of non-radioactive hybridization techniques for routine diagnosis of enteric pathogens.
- d) Summarizing the results obtained in three years and identifying research priorities to be addressed in future ICDDR,B investigations.

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TIME ALLOTTED FOR EACH INVESTIGATIONS

Standardization of procedure ... 6 months

Testing of specimens ... 24 months

Analysis of data and writing reports 6 months

TASK of INVESTIGATORS

<u>Investigator</u>

<u>Task</u>

S.M. Faruque Standardization of hybridization Q.S. Ahmad procedures and DNA probes

S.M. Faruque Q.S. Ahmad A.R.M.A. Alim Lab technicians Research Officer Preparation of colony blots and performing routine hybridizations for detecting enteric pathogens in clinical and epidemiological specimens

S.M. Faruque Research Officer

Introduction and testing of non-radioactive hybridization methods

S.M. Faruque Q.S. Ahmad Lab technicians Research Officers

Testing the specificity of new DNA probes against enteric pathogens obtained from other laboratories

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmed

Academic and strategic feedback

BUDGET FOR THREE YEARS

			Yearly	budget	(in US\$)	
Description		1st year	r 2nd	- year	3rd year	Total
1.	<u>Personnel</u>					
ио.	Level & step					,
1 1 1 2 2	NOA 9 (10%)	15,948 14,796 7,824 1,192 5,440 4,440	5,6	228	17,028 15,660 8,256 1,264 5,832 4,728	49,464 45,676 24,120 3,686 16,848 13,752
Tot	al personnel cost	49,600	51,1	L78	52,768	153,546
2.	Capital equipment	- 				
	Gel electrophoresis apparatus (2 sets)	2,000	· · ·	_	·-	2,000
	Sequencing gel system and high voltage power supply (1 set)	3,000	3	-	_	3,000
		2,000		-	-	2,000
	Shaking water bath	1,500		-		1,500
	Radioactivity monitor	2,500		-	-	2,500
Tota	al equipment cost	11,000		0	. 0	11,000

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**INTERDEPARTMENTAL_SERVICES-1ST/2ND/3BD_YBAR

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4814: Animal research	1		
4815 Medical illustration	;		
4817 : Telex	•		
4818 Out patient care,	:		
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