

Reports, News and Notes

Leprosy Scientific Memoranda: Leonard Wood Memorial

After a lapse of time, this Memoranda is now once again available as '... a means for scientists working on the chemotherapy of leprosy, the pharmacology of antileprosy drugs, culture techniques, and the bacteriology of immunology of leprosy, to exchange information informally and quickly with their colleagues throughout the world'. The appearance of findings in this Memoranda does not constitute publication. Further details may be obtained from the address below.

Contributions must be typed on standard size paper; an original and a good copy should be submitted. Pages should be typed single-spaced and in a compact format. The width of the reproducible area must not exceed 7 inches (17.8 cm). Because the pages will be photographically reduced to 1/2 size, large size type should always be used. It is important that you sequentially number every page of each submission, including tables and figures. Complete manuscripts or contributions resembling manuscripts cannot be accepted.

The *LSM* is sponsored solely by the Leonard Wood Memorial, with a partial contributing grant from the CIBA-GEIGY Co. (Basle, Switzerland). Closing dates for the *LSM* are scheduled bi-monthly so communications should be submitted, whenever ready, to Dr. Jay Sanford, Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board, Leonard Wood Memorial (American Leprosy Foundation) 11600 Nebel Street, Suite 210, Rockville, Maryland, USA 20852. No responsibility is assumed for the content of communication exchanges through the *LSM*.

WHO: Report of the Meeting on Action Plans for Leprosy Control, New Delhi, 1982

A meeting on the practical implications of the recommendations of the WHO Study Group on Chemotherapy of Leprosy for Control Programmes (1981) was held at the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, in New Delhi, 23–25 August 1982. Dr Sansarricq, Chief Medical Officer, Leprosy Unit, WHO Headquarters, outlined the scope and objectives of the meeting.

He emphasized that this was a unique occasion, since representatives of important voluntary organizations with a long history of involvement in leprosy control, were for the first time invited together with those responsible for leprosy activities in WHO, to discuss appropriate ways for implementation of the new multidrug therapy in order to formulate a uniform approach to achieve the common objectives. He stressed the need to implement extensively and expeditiously the new regimens recommended by the WHO Study Group at its meeting in Geneva in October 1981. Any further delay could be disastrous, with increasing dapsone resistance and the development of multiple drug resistance. The need for increased funding to support the substantially increased costs in order to promote the implementation of this strategy was therefore imperative. The long-term cost-effectiveness ratio and the substantially increased benefits to patients would adequately justify this sound technical approach. He emphasized that efficient planning, sound managerial concepts, strengthening of the infrastructure and periodic evaluation will be essential prerequisites for effective implementation of the new strategy. Appropriate training for all categories of personnel commencing at the managerial levels will be necessary, to ensure greater efficiency in the effective

utilization of available resources. Better and more effective treatment could be the most important factor in reducing defaulter rates and substantially improving case-finding.

He then briefly outlined the main objectives of the meeting which were closely interlinked:

- 1 To prepare an outline plan of action for implementation of multidrug therapy at the regional level with appropriate financial requirements.
- 2 To explore the intentions of collaborating agencies regarding their participation, particularly in financial terms, in national leprosy control programmes, for the implementation of the new regimens.

This document, WHO/LEP/83.1, is essential reading for all concerned with leprosy control.

Raoul Follereau Grant for Leprosy Research, 1984

The Italian Leprosy Relief Association "Amici di Raoul Follereau", an organization for international health cooperation, offers a grant of U.S. \$20,000 for leprosy research, named after Raoul Follereau, to a young research worker in a European department. The object of the grant is to stimulate the undertaking of original research in the field of leprosy in a research department in Europe.

The precise conditions were finalised at the recent meeting of the Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) in Berne, Switzerland in June 1983, and will shortly be distributed to all ILEP members, leprosy journals and appropriate institutions, including universities and research centres, in Europe. Meanwhile, further details may be obtained from "Amici di Raoul Follereau", via Borselli, 4—40135 Bologna, Italy. Tel. 051/423809—433402.

ALERT, Annual Report, 1982

We are most grateful for this very full report (virtually 90 pages) of activities at ALERT in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The courses for 1984 are listed under 'Domiciliary and Field Work' in this issue. The work is described under the headings of organization, general information, summary of activities, training department, department of hospital services, leprosy control, Armauer Hansen Research Institute, finance and appendices. It is extremely encouraging to read this account of continuing activities at ALERT, which have been maintained often under conditions of considerable difficulty. Address: ALERT, PO Box 165, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Malaysia: Annual Report of National Leprosy Control, 1981

This is a remarkably comprehensive account of control activities (200 pages) from the National Leprosy Control Centre, Pusat Kawalan Kusta Negara, Sungai Buloh, Selangor, Malaysia, with detailed information on all aspects of control in various parts of the country. Special sections cover the Regional Working Group meeting on drug policy in the Philippines in February 1981; the WHO Study Group on Chemotherapy in Geneva in October 1981; and the Asian Seminar on Vocational Rehabilitation of Leprosy Patients, Bombay, October 1981.

XII International Leprosy Congress, New Delhi, 20–25 February 1984

The Final Information Brochure has now been issued. Details are given of the necessary Registration and Hotel Accommodation Forms, Scientific Sessions, Workshops, Teaching Sessions, Social Events and Tours. Enquiries *in the UK* to Dr S.G. Browne, Secretary, the International Leprosy Association, 16 Bridgefield Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 2DG and *in India* to Dr R.H. Thangaraj, Organising Secretary, XIIth International Leprosy Congress, 1, Red Cross Road, New Delhi-110 001, India.

***Handbook of Leprosy* by W H Jopling now in Portuguese**

In view of the very considerable success of this booklet in English-speaking (and many other) areas, it is a pleasure to record that it has been translated, and is now available in Portuguese. The UK publishers (William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, 23 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HH) have kindly confirmed that the Portuguese edition has been published by Livraria Atheneu Ltda, Rua Bambina 74, Loja A/B, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, South America. Apart from Macao, our understanding is that the need may be mainly in Brazil, Portugal, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Guinea Bissau and East Timor. (Note: Fig. 14, p. 45, needs a correction. Polar LL + TT are printed as 'instável' (meaning unstable) but this should of course read 'stável' (meaning stable).)

INFOLEP: Materials for Teaching and Learning in Leprosy, November 1982

The Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP) in Amsterdam has recently produced and circulated a 103-page document (A4 size) on teaching and learning and leprosy in pursuance of its objective to collect analyse and document all relevant material for teaching in leprosy. The purpose is to act as a 'clearing house' in collection, analysis, definition of needs and dissemination of information in the form of an annual report/bibliography.

The present document lists the materials so far examined under appropriate headings; adds an index of personal names; summarizes the material by language; and gives the addresses of distribution agencies. It should be noted that INFOLEP does not intend to actually stock and distribute the materials described. The final green pages give details of such materials as are already distributed by The Leprosy Mission (International), OXFAM, TALC, MEDDIA, VHAI, Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Carville, the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation and others. Address: Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP), Royal Tropical Institute, Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Workshop on Reconstructive Surgery of the Hand in Leprosy, Kumbakonam, South India, 1982

A workshop on reconstructive surgery of the hand in leprosy was held at the Sacred Heart Leprosy Centre, Kumbakonam, 18-20 October 1982. This workshop was fully sponsored by LEPRRA, all the expenses being given through the 'ring' fund.

The aim of this workshop, the first of its kind held in recent years, was to establish a communication between the young and old surgeons working in this field and to bring their knowledge up-to-date in all branches of reconstructive surgery of the paralytic hand deformities.

Twenty-two doctors from various parts of India participated in this workshop. The internal faculty consisted of Dr D D Palande, Dr A Subramanian (Surgeons), Mr Vasant L Naganore (OT), Mr Simon (PT), and Mr Gopal (Social Welfare Officer), while the external faculty consisted of Dr H Srinivasan, Senior Surgeon, CLT & RI Chingleput, Dr A Beine, Surgeon, Sivananda Rehabilitation Home, Hyderabad, and Dr G D Sundararaj, Surgeon, CMC Hospital, Vellore. A complete account of this workshop may be obtained on application to Dr D Palande, Chief Surgeon, Sacred Heart Leprosy Centre, Sakkottai 612 401, Kumbakonam, RS, Thanjavur District, South India.

INTERLINK: International network for disadvantaged and disabled people

Mr A D Askew, International Director of the Leprosy Mission (International) in London has kindly drawn our attention to this organization. INTERLINK is an international network for the

exchange of arts opportunities for disadvantaged and disabled people of all nationalities and cultures.

Elderly people or children with severe mental or physical limitations everywhere can extend themselves through drawing, playing music, sculpting or puppetry and dance. Programmes of rehabilitation can include creative activities.

INTERLINK has a developing free advisory service. This service can arrange for the visit of a consultant who has had considerable experience of working with disabled or severely disadvantaged people and who is specialized in a particular aspect (for example, crafts, visual art, drama, music, etc.). The consultant will work closely for a few weeks with local artists and staff, demonstrating the value of creative involvement. New arts programmes could be set up which would be continued by the clients after the initial visit. Advice about continued funding for the creative projects will be part of the consultancy.

Exchange visits can be organized to other countries for those wishing to investigate creative activities for recreation or rehabilitative purposes.

Three-month introductory training courses can be arranged for staff wishing to learn about arts activities for rehabilitation or recreational purposes. INTERLINK is interested to discuss the possibility of developing projects with leprosy patients overseas. For more information, contact Gina Levette, 358 Strand, London WC2R 0HS.

BOMS: Bureau for Overseas Medical Service, London—Health Workers for the Third World

The Bureau for Overseas Medical Service (BOMS) is a charity for health workers who are interested in working in the Third World countries of Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and South America. We offer career advice and can tell you about jobs in hospitals, clinics, missions, primary health care units and teaching establishments. We welcome enquiries from doctors with provisional or full registration in the UK. We recently enlarged our register to include all health workers and would like to hear from paramedical workers with state registration and 2 years' working experience. Nurses must be SRN with a higher teaching qualification. We are particularly interested in health workers with leprosy experience. Anyone interested in joining our register or who knows of a vacancy for a health worker in the Third World is invited to contact Colin Jacobs, Secretary, Bureau for Overseas Medical Service, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT, Telephone 01-636 8636, ext. 232.

OXFAM-LEPRA: a pack of 25 documents for teaching-learning in leprosy

In late 1981, OXFAM in Oxford, in cooperation with LEPRA, drew up a list of 25 documents for teaching-learning in leprosy, with the object of providing an 'immediate' source of information for medical students, medical officers (with and without experience of leprosy), leprosy control officers, tutors, nurses and other potential teachers. The pack includes: two short paperback 'textbooks' on leprosy; 2 colour transparency self-teaching sets, with text; various essential WHO publications; documents and reprints on laboratory work, prevention of disability, adverse immunological reactions, essay competitions on leprosy for medical students and social aspects.

One hundred packs were assembled in Oxford in early 1982, and all sold out within 7 months to individuals, teaching units, universities and research institutes in various parts of the world. Later in 1982 a further 100 packs were made up of which over half were sold before March 1983. Although an assessment of the value of these packs in the field has not yet been attempted, the demand from many different countries has far outstripped the original expectations and this is interpreted as indicating—at the very least—a significant level of professional interest. (A similar pack for

tuberculosis is in preparation.) Enquiries on current cost of the leprosy pack and postal charges to: Medical Unit, Oxford, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, England.

Histopathology Services for Developing Countries

Professor Michael Hutt will be retiring from St Thomas's Hospital in London in September this year and has recently issued the following letter concerning histopathology services, which include the examination of biopsies for leprosy:

'For the last 15 years the department of Histopathology at St Thomas' Hospital has provided a free, postal, diagnostic service for a number of hospitals, both government and mission, in developing countries. It was originally envisaged that the need for such services would decrease as they were built up locally. For a variety of reasons, differing from country to country, this has not happened and the need is still there and likely to continue. To meet these problems and to provide histopathological expertise in parasitic, communicable and other tropical diseases in the UK a new consultative histopathologist post has been created jointly with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and University College Hospital Medical School. This post has just been filled by the appointment of Dr S B Lucas who has spent 2 of the last 4 years in this unit and 2 in the Pathology Department at Nairobi. My own full-time post will terminate in September when I retire, though I will continue my involvement with developing countries on a part-time basis.

'Dr Lucas is keen to maintain or increase the diagnostic services for tropical countries and we hope to raise funds to cover the expenses of such work.

'As from 6 April 1983, I would be grateful if you could re-route your postal specimens to him:

Dr S B Lucas, Department of Morbid Anatomy, School of Medicine, University College London, University Street, London WC1. Telephone 01-387 9300.

'I hope to remain in contact with you through my association with Dr Lucas and I am sure that he will provide you with an excellent service.'

M S R HUTT, *Professor of Geographical Pathology*

Editorials for 1984

At a meeting of the Editorial Board of *Leprosy Review* in February 1983, it was proposed that editorials for 1984 would include the subjects of immunotherapy, monoclonal antibodies, and a review of the International Leprosy Congress in Delhi (1984).