

## Reports, News and Notes

### **ILEP: International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations; 29th Working Session, Berne, Switzerland, 6–9 June 1983**

The Medical Commission and the Standing Committee and *ad hoc* working groups met to consider the following subjects: Leprosy and Primary Health Care; Combined TB/Leprosy programmes; Leprosy in Europe; the ILA Congress in New Delhi, February 1984; Public Relations; Health Education and Information; Training; Social Aspects in the Treatment of Leprosy Sufferers. Some of the topics covered by the Medical Commission included the following: research projects; a form for the yearly reporting of patients on multiple drug regimens; the final draft of a document on the introduction of multiple drug regimens; the ILA Delhi Congress; the recent workshop on 'Leprosy in Countries with Developed Health Services' (see below). The ILEP booklet *Guidelines for the Campaign against Leprosy* is now available in a French translation. A similar booklet on *Leprosy Control and Primary Health Care* is also available in English and French. The Commission also had the opportunity to examine and discuss the very first copies of the INFOLEP booklet on smear examination in leprosy. CIBA-GEIGY of Basle very kindly set up a demonstration which included a wide range of publications and reprints on chemotherapy. (Apart from the production of rifampicin (as Rimactane®) and clofazimine (as Lamprene®), readers may be interested to know that this company also markets dapsone (as Servidapsone®) in 50 and 100 mg tablets.)

### **Workshop in Italy: 'Management of Leprosy in Countries with Developed Health Services'; Santa Margherita, April–May 1983. 'Amici di Raoul Follereau'**

This Workshop was the third in a series organized by the 'Amici di Raoul Follereau' (formerly called the 'Amici dei Lebbrosi'), the proceedings of which have been published in *Quaderni di Cooperazione Sanitaria* (Health Cooperation papers). The objective on this occasion was to consider aspects of the leprosy problems in countries with developed health services (essentially Europe, America and some countries in the Far East and South America) and to make recommendations for improvement, bearing in mind the recent WHO advice on multiple drug therapy. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee was Dr D L Leiker of Amsterdam. The programme was as follows:

*Session I:* Pharmacodynamics of sulphones, J K Seydel (W Germany); The pharmacodynamics of clofazimine, S G Browne (UK); The pharmacodynamics of rifampicin, S R Pattyn (Belgium); Pharmacological and experimental evidence for the selection of drugs in the treatment of leprosy, G A Ellard (UK).

*Session II:* Drug-sensitive persisters and drug resistance in leprosy, S R Pattyn (Belgium); Microbial persistence in mycobacterial infections, J Grosset (France); Principles of chemotherapy in tuberculosis, J Grosset (France); Principles of chemotherapy in leprosy in relation to disease

control, S K Noordeen (WHO); Compliance and compliance testing, H Huikeshoven (The Netherlands); Drug-sensitivity testing in leprosy, S R Pattyn (Belgium).

*Session III:* Leprosy reactions and their management, differential diagnosis with relapse, B Naafs (The Netherlands); Release from treatment and follow up, R C Hastings (USA); Present day organization of the leprosy control programme in France, F Cottenot (France); Current management of leprosy in The Netherlands, D L Leiker (The Netherlands); Eradication of tuberculosis and leprosy using chemotherapy, E Freerksen (W Germany); Current management of leprosy in Yugoslavia, Amina Korie-Gackie (Yugoslavia); Current management of leprosy in Spain, J Terencio de Las Aguas (Spain); Drug development, needs and prospectives, J K Seydel (W Germany); Discussion.

*Session IV:* Rehabilitation, S G Browne (UK); Surgical rehabilitation and surgical prevention of leprosy deformities (excluding the face), P Bourrel (France); Teaching, A C McDougall (UK); Introduction to immunology in leprosy, A Bryceson (UK); Immunodiagnosis of leprosy, J L Stanford (UK).

*Session V:* Immunotherapy, Marian Ulrich (Venezuela); Vaccination in Tuberculosis, IUAT; Vaccination in leprosy, Marian Ulrich (Venezuela); Discussion; Sub-Group meetings on: Therapy, Immunology and Vaccination, Rehabilitation, Training.

An important development during the course of this most enjoyable workshop was the grant for leprosy research described below.

### **Raoul Follereau Grant for Leprosy Research**

(‘Amici di Raoul Follereau’, via Borselli, 4-40135 Bologna, Italy.)

The Italian Leprosy Relief Association ‘Amici di Raoul Follereau’, will offer a sum of US \$20,000 for a 2-year period of leprosy research, named after Raoul Follereau, to a young research worker in a university or other scientific centre in Europe.

The objective is to stimulate the undertaking of an original research project in the field of leprosy in Europe.

Further details and the necessary application forms may be obtained from ‘Amici di Raoul Follereau’ at the above address.

### **WHO Press Release: (WHA/7 07 16.5.83) tuberculosis**

To those who sometimes become despondent about the lack of progress in leprosy control and the difficulty of obtaining and distributing the necessary drugs, the following statement on tuberculosis may offer some consolation:

Noting that little improvement has been achieved in controlling tuberculosis in the developing countries over the past 20 years, the Assembly requested the Director-General to make all possible efforts through collaboration between the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs and the pharmaceutical industry to ensure that the most effective medicaments become more widely accessible to developing countries.

### **WHO: Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control**

The *Weekly Epidemiological Record* (1983; **58**: 109–16) devotes considerable space to describing the outcome from a meeting of epidemiologists in Geneva in November 1982 to ‘. . . identify the main problems which are of immediate importance for tuberculosis and leprosy control, and to indicate areas for research’. As usual, the account is in English and French. The final paragraph is of particular interest:

#### *Tuberculosis, Leprosy and other Mycobacterial Infections*

There are similarities, differences and interactions between these two mycobacterial diseases, which are imperfectly understood. Two main areas should be explored: (1) The epidemiological interactions between tuberculosis and leprosy infection and disease, and the immunological role of other mycobacterial infections, particularly in relation to the information being collected in the Chingleput trial. (2) Health services research on the possibility of combining control programmes for tuberculosis and leprosy, and incorporating the control of these two diseases into the primary health care system.

### **Tuberculosis Course at ALERT, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, May 1983**

The first tuberculosis course was held in ALERT in Addis Ababa in May 1983 and another is planned for November 1984. Dr Styblo of the International Union Against Tuberculosis (IUAT) coordinated a small group of internationally eminent teachers in this subject. Further details may be obtained from the Training Director, ALERT, PO Box 165, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### **Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy, 1984**

Postdoctoral research fellowships, research grants and visiting research awards are being offered by this organization for 1984, as in previous years. Full details of these extremely valuable awards are obtainable from Mrs Barbara M Hugonnet, Director, Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy, 450 East 63rd Street, New York, New York 10021, USA.

### **Documents Received in Editorial Office**

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following documents from colleagues overseas:

- 1 XIIIth Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists, Bombay, 18–21 November 1983.
- 2 Summary of the Proceedings of the Eastern Region Leprosy Workers' Conference, Jamshedpur, India, March 1983.
- 3 XIth Workshop on Leprosy at the Acworth Leprosy Hospital, Bombay, India, March 1983.
- 4 Protocol for multidrug therapy for active leprosy cases in the control area of Kasturba Kushta Nivaran Nilayam, Malavanthangal (Professor T N Jagadisan, Madras).
- 5 News from the German Leprosy Relief Association Secretariat in Madras on Health Education Activities in 1983.
- 6 Bombay Leprosy Project; Indian Railways Launch Antileprosy Campaign in Collaboration with Bombay Leprosy Project (Dr Revankar in Bombay).

[Space does not allow us to give detailed information on all these interesting activities, but we can supply further details from this office if needed. *Editor*]

### **Zambia: Leprosy Control and Health Education**

The Leprosy Advisory Committee met in August 1982 and gave considerable time to discussing health education and training in leprosy; during 1983 Dr Richard de Soldenhoff (Leprosy specialist) has been able to further define the needs at various levels of the community and to make good some of the defects in the availability of suitably written and audio-visual material. A seminar on 'Disability Prevention' was held in the Mwachisompola Health Demonstration Zone in January 1983 and attended by leprosy control officers, physiotherapists and officers in charge of leprosy referral hospitals (leprosaria). The Permanent Secretary and Director of Medical Services, Dr J M Kasonde published (with J D Martin, Adviser on Primary Health Care in the Ministry of Health in Lusaka) 'Moving towards primary health care: the Zambian experience' (*World Health Forum*, 1983; 4: 25-30).

### **HYGIE: *International Journal of Health Education***

There is a change of appearance and format; having previously appeared with a blue cover, about 15 by 20 cm, this is now about double the size and also of greater length; the latest we have received has 96 pages and includes interesting articles on health education presented at the XIth International Conference on Health Education held in Hobart, Tasmania in August 1982. A particularly important one is that by Dr Halfdan Mahler, Director General of WHO, 'The New Look in Health Education', on pages 74-7. He refers to the importance of making '... fuller use of the new media resources at our disposal and to harness the latest technological advances in communications'. Following the report of this paper there is a note from the editors inviting all film and video tape producers to send a written description of their productions for publication, in view of the fact that '... audiovisuals are more and more used by health educators as learning aids. Many readers have asked us to introduce a section which informs them of existing audiovisuals and how to obtain them.' The Journal address is HYGIE, *IJHE*, 9 Rue Newton F-75116, Paris, France.

### **Schisto Update**

Already peripheral to the interests of many workers in leprosy, this excellent publication may well be of value to those in parasite immunology and it is mailed free of charge to all who request it; from The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, 250 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10017, USA. It also has a preliminary section with items of general interest; the latest received here has details of: a tropical disease fellowship funded by the Rockefeller Foundation and the Foundation for Microbiology in the USA; tropical disease applications for WHO; epidemiology fellowships under the US Public Health Service; Wellcome Research Travel Grants; Wellcome Visiting Professorships in Microbiology 1983/84, etc.

### **Vacancies at Armauer Hansen Research Institute**

The Armauer Hansen Research Institute is in the compound of ALERT Leprosy Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its task is to do basic research in the immunology of leprosy. There will be at least one vacancy from early 1984 on the scientific staff. Applicants with suitable experience in immunology/immunochemistry should apply for further details to the Director of AHRI, PO Box 1005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as soon as possible.