

Reports, News and Notes

Robert Cochrane Fund for Leprosy

The fund, in memory of the great leprologist Robert Cochrane, is administered by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. It is to be used to finance up to 2 travel fellowships each year to a maximum value of £1000 each.

The intention is to enable leprosy workers to travel for practical training in field work, or in research, or to enable experienced leprologists to travel in order to provide practical clinical training in a developing country. There is no restriction on the country of origin or destination providing the above requirements are fulfilled.

Application forms are available from the Society and must be received by the Society at least 6 months ahead of the proposed trip. All applications must be sponsored by a suitable representative of the applicant's employer or study centre, and agreed by the host organization. A 2 page report on the travel/study should be submitted to the Society within 1 month of the recipient's return. Apply: The Administrator, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Manson House, 26 Portland Place, London W1N 4EY.

Medical Research Council Tuberculosis and Related Infections Unit

The MRC's new unit, directed by Dr J Ivanyi, was opened at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, on 1 October. It replaces the Unit for Laboratory Studies of Tuberculosis, which closed last month when the director, Prof. D A Mitchison, retired. The Tuberculosis and Chest Diseases Unit at the Brompton Hospital will continue to function until 30 September 1986, when the director, Prof. Wallace Fox, retires.

Handbook of Leprosy, W H Jopling, 3rd edition, now also in ELBS

In a recent issue (Number 4, 55, 1984) we drew attention to the advantages of the English Language Book Society (ELBS) system, whereby selected books are available to students in developing countries at between one-third and one-half the normal price. An ELBS edition of Dr Jopling's invaluable handbook will be available from 1985 onwards. Enquiries to William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd, 23 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HH or ELBS, The British Council, 11 Portland Place, London W1N 4EJ.

Tropical Diseases Chemotherapy Research Unit, Sunderland Polytechnic

We are grateful for the First Annual Report of this Unit in Sunderland, which was inaugurated in November 1982, with a lecture on 'Chemotherapy and Tropical Disease' given by Dr L G Goodwin, formerly Director of the Nuffield Institute of Comparative Medicine. The following are extracts from Professor Hooper's report: *The aims of the Unit* are the design and development of novel effective chemotherapeutic agents for the treatment of tropical diseases. At present the major areas of interest are leprosy and tuberculosis, trypanosomiasis and leishmaniasis. The area of activity is being extended to include filariasis.

The TDCRU brings together members of academic and research staff in the Faculties of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Science with a common interest and commitment to the study of tropical diseases and the development of effective new chemotherapeutic agents for their treatment.

The Unit has well-found research laboratories for synthetic work, for a range of biochemical investigations and for *in vivo* biological studies. These include a grade B pathogen laboratory.

In particular the Unit has established *in vitro* and *in vivo* screening procedures for testing potential trypanocidal compounds. The screen can accommodate compounds from external organizations in addition to those from the Unit's own research programmes. A screen for anti-leishmanial compounds is presently being established and this facility will also be available to outside organizations. Enquiries: TDCRU, Sunderland Polytechnic, Sunderland, SR2 7EE.

CIBA-GEIGY; cassette on Lamprone and Rimactane

We are grateful for this excellent tape on clofazimine and rifampicin from Basle, which describes the development and clinical use of these drugs in leprosy. Enquiries to Dr J P Heiniger, CIBA-GEIGY, Medical Department, CH-4002, Basle, Switzerland.

OXFAM, Oxford; Questions and answers on the implementation of multidrug therapy (MDT) for leprosy

This is a 32-page booklet, A5 size, in question and answer form, produced by OXFAM as Number 3 in its 'Practical Guide' series. Starting with 'What is MDT?' and ending with 'Will the implementation of MDT lead to the control, and perhaps even to the eradication of leprosy?', 15 questions, all of a practical nature, are posed, and an attempt made to answer them in the light of existing knowledge about a fast-expanding subject. Price: £1.50 per copy, with a 25% discount on orders of more than 10, plus postage charges on bulk orders. Enquiries: OXFAM, Health Unit, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ.

International Symposium on Mycobacteria of Clinical Interest

Date: 27–28th September, 1985. Themes—immunopathology of leprosy and tuberculosis; modern methods for the rapid diagnosis of tuberculosis; human mycobacteriosis; therapy of leprosy and tuberculosis; experimental chemotherapy, etc.

Apply to Secretariat, International Symposium on Mycobacteria of Clinical Interest, Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, University of Córdoba, CORDOBA-4, Spain.

Tropical Health Technology; Medical Laboratory Manual for Tropical Countries; Vols 1 and 2

These 2 volumes are now available, at remarkably low cost, from Tropical Health Technology Ltd, 14 Bevills Close, Doddington, Cambridgeshire, England PE15 0TT.

Volume 1 covers—introduction to the laboratory; anatomy and physiology and explanation of clinical terms; medical parasitology; clinical chemistry. There are appendices on the preparation of reagents; addresses of manufacturers; useful tables, index and loose sheets.

Volume 2 is on microbiology, including bacteriology; virology and mycology. The UK cost of Volume 1 is £9.35, inclusive of postage and of Volume 2 £9.95, inclusive of postage. Rates to Europe, North America and other countries are available from the above address. (These volumes are produced and distributed on a non-profit-making basis and they are of exceptional value. They include full and extremely well-illustrated sections on the taking of split-skin smears in leprosy, and the examination of sputum for tuberculosis).

Coordination Bureau for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Copenhagen

The descriptive booklet reads as follows:

Denmark has for many years been engaged in all aspects of health care in developing countries. Enquiries among aid organisations and private firms have shown the need for an advising and coordinating body in that field.

The Danish Society of Tropical Medicine has therefore decided to set up a Coordination Bureau for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in agreement with the Danish Medical Association's Working Group on Health Care in the Developing Countries, and with the cooperation and understanding of Statens Seruminstitut, the Medical Faculties, the Centre for Development Research, and the Department of Infectious Diseases, Rigshospitalet.

By utilising the existing experience, the Bureau has the following aims: to train Danish personnel in the solving of health problems in developing countries, using an integrated approach with other disciplines; to support and advise Danish health workers in the field by building useful contacts; to mobilise the experience from ongoing projects by offering advice with relevant evaluation; to contact previous and present health workers with the purpose of computing and canalising the existing experience; to offer this experience to private and public aid organisations as a help to planning, carrying out, and evaluation of health related projects; to stimulate health education and research both abroad and at home; to establish national and international contacts with organisations engaged in health projects in developing countries, in order to promote a better coordination of effort.

Enquiries to: Department of Infectious Diseases M 7701, Rigshospitalet Tagensvej 20 2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark.

Medical Education Newsletter; Centre for Medical Education, Dundee

The Newsletter for Summer 1984 from the Centre for Medical Education, The University, Dundee, DD1 4HN, Scotland, UK, is, as usual, packed with items of information on all aspects of medical teaching and includes a form on the back page for requesting further details, and even copies of the material described. This is an invaluable source of information for all engaged in teaching. Enquiries to the above address.

Medical Journals from China

On an exchange basis with *Leprosy Review*, we continue to receive 3 journals from the Republic of China—1) *Chinese Medical Journal*, 42 Dongsì Xidajie, Beijing, 2) *Chinese Journal of Dermatology*, c/o Institute of Dermatology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, 100, Jiangwangmiao, Taipingmen, Nanjing, Jiangsu, and 3) *Journal of Clinical Dermatology*, Department of Dermatology-1, First Teaching Hospital, Nanjing Medical College, Nanjing, China. Both dermatological journals frequently carry articles on leprosy. Typical headings from recent issues include:

Urine test for monitoring regular self-administration of dapsone and its application *Department of leprology, Institute of Dermatology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences . . .*

HLA-linked control of predisposition of lepromatous leprosy . . . *Xu Keyu et al*

Histopathology of Blood Vessels and Skin Appendages in the Skin Lesions of Untreated LL and BL Forms of Leprosy Patients—A Light and Electron Microscopy Study . . . *Zhu Wen-Yuan et al*

Malignancy of Trophic Ulcer in Leprosy: Report of Two Cases . . . *Dong Li-Wen et al*

The Influence of *Corynebacterium Parvum* (C. P.) and *M. Vaccae* Vaccine on Leprosy Infection . . . *Ji Baohong et al*

—all from the *Journal of Clinical Dermatology*. And the following—

Study in cultivation on *M. leprae* in vitro: II. Characteristics of 21 strains of acid-fast bacilli studied by means of 12 differential identification tests . . . *Wu Qinxue et al*. Further observation on histoid leproma by TEM and SEM . . . *Liu Lihe et al*—both from the *Chinese Journal of Dermatology*.

China Medical Abstracts, 1984

CHINA MEDICAL ABSTRACTS (Internal Medicine) is the first official publication of its kind of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (CAMS) published in English. It provides comprehensive sources of recent advances of the specialities of internal medicine, which were published in the major Chinese medical journals and acta academiæ of medical schools all over China. Readers may comprehend rapidly and extensively what the Chinese medical workers have done in the field of internal medicine. The CHINA MEDICAL ABSTRACTS will come out 4 times a year. Subjects index will be prepared annually. Price US \$40.00 (surface mail).

Apply: Export Department, China National Publications Import & Export Corporation, PO Box 88, 137 Chao-Nei Street, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Video-tape: 'Chemotherapy of Leprosy for Control Programmes', Oxford

The Department of Medical Illustration in Oxford has produced a 14-minute video-tape (VHS PAL 625 system) describing recent regimens of drug treatment for leprosy, based on the Report of a WHO Study Group entitled '*Chemotherapy of Leprosy for Control Programmes*', published by WHO in Geneva in 1982 in the Technical Report Series, Number 675.

The intended audience includes—medical students, medically qualified doctors, senior personnel in ministries of health in leprosy-endemic countries, tutors and teachers in medical and para-medical schools, programme planners, leprosy control officers and supervisors, senior staff in pharmacies, drug supply and distribution.

The subject matter covers the classification of leprosy according to both Madrid and Ridley–Jopling systems; definition of pauci and multibacillary leprosy; unit dosage and regimens of dapsone, rifampicin, clofazimine and the thioamides for the treatment of both pauci and multibacillary cases. In order to ensure the safe and effective implementation of multiple drug therapy for as many patients as possible and with the minimum of delay, repeated emphasis is given to the importance of the training, retraining and supervision of the health personnel concerned.

Cost: £12 sterling (\$16 US dollars), plus Value Added Tax (VAT), but inclusive of postage. Apply directly to: Department of Medical Illustration, the John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 9DU, England.

Lower limb prosthesis for amputees in rural areas

We are grateful to Dr P K Sethi, FRCS, for information about a lower limb prosthesis which has already proved of great value in the rural areas of India. The 'Jaipur foot', named after the village in the state of Rajasthan where Dr Sethi tested his invention, is simple, inexpensive and easily made by local artisans. Wearing it, an amputee can return to normal activities—ploughing wet paddy fields, walking up and down rough terrain, pedalling a rickshaw tricycle or riding a motorcycle. If desired, the prosthesis fits easily into a normal shoe, and it enables the wearer to squat or sit cross-legged. Materials to construct the foot are commonly found in most developing countries. At its core is a universal joint made of virtually indestructible sponge rubber. This is enclosed in rayon cord (commonly used in tyres). The external surface is made of vulcanized rubber, moulded to size in a die produced by age-old sandcasting methods. It has the shape of a normal foot, complete with big toe. Discarded tyres can be used as raw material and the foot bleached and stained to match the skin tone of the individual. Bicycle axles replace expensive steel knee joints, and leather near the hips allows the sideways movement involved in squatting or sitting cross-legged. The amputee is ready to walk only 45 min from the time measurement of the limb begins. Following up on his patients, Dr Sethi has found that farmers are carrying out their usual work, which involves considerable wading in mud and water, for 3 or 4 years without a breakdown. The foot is being fitted at the Rehabilitation Research Centre at Sawai Man Singh Medical College and Hospital in Jaipur, which Dr Sethi heads. The centre handles over 700 patients a year, who come from all over India, some from as far as a thousand miles away. The Mahavir Society for the Physically Disabled purchases materials, identifies the disabled and helps them get to Jaipur and pays other costs. The foot itself is provided free of charge. Further information from: Drs P K Sethi, Vivekan and Marg, Jaipur 30200, India.

Erratum. Editorial, LEPRAs Elective Period Student Programme, 1978–83

In reference 4 of the above paper (*Lepr Rev* (1984) 55, 321–325) both Davies RA and Ng YY were incorrectly listed as LEPRAs Elective Period Students. They were in fact financed by The Leprosy Mission and the Medical Research Council. We apologize for this error.

Histopathology of leprosy course, Santa Margherita Ligure, Italy, September 1984

From 24 to 29 September 1984, in S. Margherita Ligure, Italy, a course on histopathology was held under the auspices and the contribution of the Italian Leprosy Relief Association 'Amici di Raoul Follereau' and the Department of Dermatology of the University of Genoa. The course was conducted by Prof D L Leiker and Drs D S Marion and Ridley. The 14 participants of the course came from six Mediterranean countries, from Bulgaria and from the USSR.

Raoul Follereau Grant 1984 for leprosy research

The Raoul Follereau Grant of 20,000 US\$ is offered every two years by the Italian Leprosy Relief Association 'Amici di Raoul Follereau', for leprosy research. The first grant was allocated on the advice of an international committee of experts to a young scientist, Dr Teunis Eggelte, in Amsterdam, for a study on: 'Synthesis and evaluation of artificial *Mycobacterium leprae* antigens for serodiagnosis of leprosy infection'. The name of the winner of the 1984 Grant was made known during the working session of ILEP in Venice in June 1984.

NLO Bulletin: National Leprosy Organization, India

We are grateful for 3 copies (Numbers 2 and 3 of 1983 and Number 1 of 1984) of this Bulletin, published by National Leprosy Organization, Hindinagar, Wardha, Maharashtra, 442103, India. The original articles cover: the Indian classification of leprosy; prevention of deformities; mode of transmission; bacteriological status of fingers; contact examinations; epidemiology of leprosy; health education in rural areas. Other sections deal with reprinted material and reports from WHO and other agencies. This publication, essentially for India, contains a great deal of information which will surely be of interest to leprosy workers in other parts of the world.

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) publications

The PAHO Office of Publications publishes: the Scientific Publications Series, which consists of almost 500 numbers on a broad spectrum of subjects—in English, Spanish, and Portuguese—in health and biomedical fields; the Periodicals Series, which includes the *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana* (published regularly since 1922), the *Bulletin of the Pan American Health Organization*, *Educación médica y salud*, and the *Epidermiological Bulletin/Boletín epidemiológico*; and the Official Documents series, which consists of the *Annual Report* and *Quadrennial Report of the Director*, *Basic Documents*, *Handbook of Resolutions*, and the *Financial Report of the Director* and the *Program and Budget*.

Catalogues of these publications and the publications themselves can be obtained by writing to either of the following:

Distribution and Sales, Pan American Health Organization, 525 Twenty-third Street, Washington, D.C. 20037, USA or BIREME—Latin American Center for Health Sciences Information, Rua Botucatu 862 Vila Clementino, Caixa Postal 20381, CEP. 04023 São Paulo, SP Brazil. These publications can also be obtained from any of the PAHO/WHO Country representatives.

Leprosy and tropical dermatology

Leprosy was certainly not overlooked at the Fifth World Congress of Tropical Dermatology, which was held in Mexico City, 16–20 October 1984.

Dr Stanley Browne, a founder-Member of the Society, had been invited to organize a Teaching Seminar on Leprosy under the title 'Leprosy: the new look'. Thanks to the willing cooperation of leprologists from Mexico itself, the USA, Malaysia and Brazil, the well-attended meeting listened with interest to a rapid review of modern ideas on leprosy and its treatment.

Because half of the participants were attending a concurrent session at the time of the Teaching Seminar, Dr Browne was asked to give an unscheduled Lecture on the general theme 'What every dermatologist should know about early leprosy'.

Medicines, health and the poor world; Office of Health Economics, London

This book of 37 pages, plus references, was written by David Taylor and published by the Office of Health Economics, 12 Whitehall, London, SW1A 2DY in 1982. It is a nextension and up-dating of the 1972 paper from this Office on 'Medical Care in Developing Countries', . . . taking into account the events of the last decade and extending the analysis provided to include an examination of the distribution and use of modern medicines in the Third World'. It is packed with valuable information under the following main headings—introduction; development and demographic transition; ill health and its causes; the provision of health care; choices for health; medicines for the poor world; pharmaceutical policies for the future; conclusions. There are 9 tables, including a large one on medical and nursing manpower in the countries of the world, grouped as low income countries, middle income countries, industrial market economies, capital surplus oil exporters and non-market industrial economies. Obtainable from the above address in London at £1.50.

XIII International Leprosy Congress, The Hague, Netherlands, 1988

The President and Secretary of the International Leprosy Association are happy to announce that the XIIIth International Leprosy Congress will be held at The Hague, Netherlands, from 11 to 17 September 1988. The Pre-Congress Workshops will be held on 8, 9 and 10 September 1988. The Inauguration of the Congress has been tentatively fixed for the evening of 11 September 1988 and the Scientific Sessions will start on 12 September. The concluding session will be on the forenoon of 17 September 1988.

Mr H E M De Bok of the Netherlands Leprosy Association is making the arrangements for the Congress and the first Information Brochure will be sent to you by September 1985.

If you have any suggestions, please contact: Dr R H Thangaraj, Secretary—ILA, No. 5 Amrita Shergill Marg, New Delhi 110003, India.

II Congress of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries, December 1985

This congress is scheduled for 3–5 December 1985 at the Baton Rouge Hilton Hotel and the National Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana. The College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries is an international organization of health professionals, physicians, social and paramedical workers concerned with the microbiology, immunology, experimental animal models, pathology, clinical aspects, therapy, physical and psychosocial rehabilitation, and the epidemiology of Hansen's disease. Panels, working groups, and free communications are planned, addressing these themes. One-half day will be devoted to a visit and tour of the National Hansen's Disease Center in Carville.

For further information contact: Dr R Azulay, President, College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries, Rua Nascimento Silva, 16/201, CEP-22.421-IPANEMA, Rio de Janeiro-R.J., Brasil; or Dr R Hastings, President, II Congress of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries, National Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, LA, 70721, USA.

ILEP Catalogue on Training, 1985

ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) has issued a catalogue of training centres in various parts of the world, which gives full details of the courses offered, main subjects taught, etc., English and French text. The centres include those in ALERT, Ethiopia; Bamako, Mali; Bauru, Brazil; Carville, USA; Fontilles, Spain; Karigri, India; Mexico City, Mexico; Yaounde, Cameroon; and Dakar, Senegal. Copies are available from ILEP, 234 Blythe Road, London W14 0HJ, or from ILEP representatives.

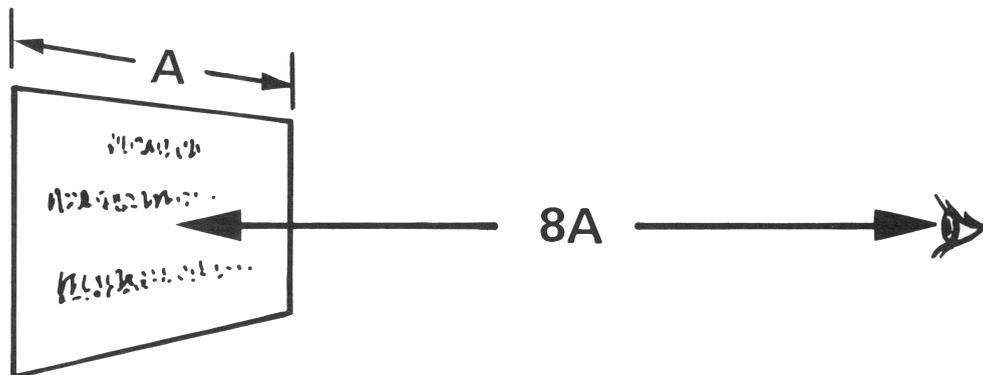
Artwork for transparencies; a useful rule of thumb

The Department of Medical Illustration in Oxford has kindly supplied the following practical advice:

If you are preparing material for presentation as a slide, there is only one rule to follow.

When you view the artwork from 8 times its longest dimension you must be able to read it easily.

It will then produce a legible slide when projected.



Further hints on the production of written material and tables in transparencies

The Royal College of Physicians of London has supplied the following advice, which should be of considerable value (and might profitably be distributed to all intending speakers at the next International Leprosy Congress): 1, On any given slide (transparency), use the *minimum* of information; no more than can be typed on a postcard. 2, Check legibility with a rule such as that given above, and remember that a part of any audience *does not have normal vision*. 3, Remember that tables which are suitable for publication *are not necessarily suitable for projection* (and are frequently much too complicated for this purpose). 4, The content of your message should fit the *shape* of the slide. 5, Writing should in general occupy not more than 7 lines in height. 6, Do not use more than about 12 characters to the line. 7, Keep the number of words in the title of each slide down to about 5. 8, Slides for projection should be marked with a spot at the *lower left-hand corner* when viewed in the hand. 9, Write your *name*, the title of the talk or lecture, the *session* and *time* clearly on the box or folder which you hand in to the projectionist.

Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences

The CIOMS arranged an International Conference in Athens, 29 October–2 November 1984 on the theme 'Health Policy, Ethics and Human Values'. About 120 participants from 40 countries—health planners, ethicists, cultural and religious leaders, as well as eminent medical men and women—joined in lively discussion and debate around the subject 'The non-medical aspects of health policy making'.

The International Leprosy Association (a founder-Member of CIOMS) was represented by its present and past Secretaries, Drs R H Thangaraj and Stanley Browne. Dr Thangaraj was invited to address the Conference on 'Hinduism' while Dr Brown was Rapporteur of one of the Working Groups.

The Conference stressed the importance of the social cultural and religious components that were essential if the WHO slogan 'Health for All by the year 2000' is to become an actuality.

Under the firm and genial chairmanship of Dr J H Bryant (the main organizer) and thanks to the excellent preparation of Dr Z Bankowski (the secretary of CIOMS), the participants thrashed out many of the implications of health policy as it affects the peoples of the world.

XII World Conference on Health Education, 1985

Trinity College in Dublin will be the venue for the XIIth World Conference on Health Education which will be held 1–6 September 1985. The theme chosen is 'Health for All—Meeting the Challenge'. Five sub-themes will focus on a particular aspect of meeting the challenge of health for all: 'Have we all a choice? What are the constraints? What progress so far? Who first? Is it the same everywhere?' For information please write to Mary D'Ardis, Conference Coordinator, Health Education Bureau, 34 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. Tel.: 76 11 16.

AHRTAG, London, 1985

We are most grateful to Ann Darnbrough, Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Unit, AHRTAG (Appropriate Health Resources and Technologies Action Group Ltd, 85 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE) for information about the following:

1, *How to make hand grips*; an extremely well-illustrated 4-page guide to the production of grips for patients with various kinds of hand disability, by Don Caston. 2, Details of free newsletters, posters and resource lists from AHRTAG. 3, Details of publications on aids for disabled children; looking after a health centre store; personal transport for disabled people; 'How to make an illuminator'. Further details and costs from the above address.

WHO intensifies research in tuberculosis (1984)

WHO has recently expanded its research efforts in the immunology of tuberculosis to take advantage of recent progress in the basic biomedical sciences. The new methods now available, such as recombinant DNA technology, T-cell cloning and monoclonal antibodies, should open up fresh opportunities for devising better immunoprophylaxis and other control methods. Yet, so far they have not led to a concerted effort in the control of tuberculosis, a disease that remains a great public health problem in developing countries despite the application of the control methods already available.

A comprehensive research programme was outlined at a planning meeting convened by WHO in Boston, USA, earlier this year. It was realized that such an effort requires a stepwise approach, and the meeting focused on the initial activities to be carried out. Priority was given to the following areas, where activities and resources at present are too limited.

- Molecular biology of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*: the goals in this area include establishing the genetic and biochemical bases for the pathogenicity of *M. tuberculosis* and developing methods to identify strain heterogeneity.
- The production of monoclonal antibodies to various components of *M. tuberculosis* to help detect mycobacterial antigens in clinical specimens; the identification of the most suitable serotypes of *M. tuberculosis* and *M. bovis* for epidemiological use; and the devising of more sensitive and specific serological tests.
- Studies of the cellular immune response to *M. tuberculosis* and its regulation in different population groups, including patients with different types of tuberculosis and subjects living in areas where BCG has been found to give insufficient protection against tuberculosis.
- Studies in experimental animals to identify by T-cell cloning the antigens involved in protective immunity, to determine the optimum means of eliciting local immunity in the lung, and to identify the mechanisms of antibacterial action in host cells, especially macrophages. (Source: *WHO Chronicle*)