

News and Notes

Dr Tore Godal appointed as New Director of TDR

On 6 June 1986, Halfdan Mahler announced the appointment of Dr Tore Godal as the new Director of UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. WHO Press Release WHO/12 of the above date reads as follows:

‘Born in the valley of Rauland in Telemark, Norway, Dr Godal graduated with a medical degree from the University of Oslo Medical School in 1966 and in the following year became, at the age of 28, one of the youngest Norwegians to be awarded a Ph.D in a medical discipline.

He can be considered as one of the “founding fathers” of TDR and immunology has always been his chief professional interest. Early on in his career, he chose leprosy as a specific field of interest. From 1970 to 1973, as Director of the Armauer Hansen Research Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Dr Godal and his colleagues studied host defences against leprosy. They discovered, among other things, that some of the damage caused by the disease results from the patient’s own immune defences.

Such research findings suggested to Dr Godal that a vaccine against leprosy could be developed and new hope to the 11 million actually suffering from the disease and many millions more living in leprosy-endemic countries.

With support from the Norwegian Development Agency, a network came into being in 1975 in the form of a “Steering Committee on the Immunology of Leprosy” (IMMLEP). A kind of “laboratory without walls”, IMMLEP, under the guidance of Dr Godal as its first Chairman, enlisted the expertise of research groups from many countries including India, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela and Norway. Ten years later, Dr Godal is being given the reins of a much larger “laboratory without walls”, dealing with more tropical diseases and extending to over 130 countries.’

We wish Dr Godal every possible success and good fortune in this new appointment. *Editor.*

Second National Leprosy Seminar in Turkey, June 1986

This was held in the Medical Faculty, Istanbul, and attended by a large number of medical students, postgraduates, university staff and teachers. Professor Turkan Saylan of the Department of Dermatology also invited a number of guest speakers from abroad (Dr and Mrs D S Ridley; Miss Jean Watson; Dr J A Warndorff; Dr S K Noordeen; Dr A C McDougall) and the Seminar included not only lectures and discussions, but also a visit to the Istanbul Leprosy Hospital and the opportunity to examine patients. It is the opinion of Professor Saylan and her colleagues that very considerable progress should now be possible, not only in the treatment of the known 4000 cases in Turkey, but in the detection of others and the implementation of multiple drug therapy. The *Technical Guide for Smear Examination for Leprosy* was translated into Turkish and distributed at this Seminar. A particularly striking element in the current approach to leprosy in this country is the extent to which Professor Saylan has been able to involve medical students and graduates in case-detection, diagnosis, treatment, epidemiology, eye complications, disability, footwear, surgery and histopathology—all of which were covered during the course of this important meeting.

Ciba-Geigy Leprosy Fund

This fund was recently established in Basle to support the control and eradication of leprosy. Three million Swiss francs are available for this purpose, to be administered by a committee with representatives from the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) and CIBA-GEIGY, Ltd. It is intended that only a limited proportion of the money should be used for drugs and it is our understanding at this stage that some interest has been expressed in work based in Sierra Leone. The Basle representatives are Mr E Decosterd, Mr P Friedli, Dr K M Leisinger and Professor S J Yawalkar.

Joint Chemotherapy Trials in Lepromatous Leprosy: SMHF, Tokyo, Japan

We are grateful to the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, Tokyo, Japan, for a copy of *The Joint Chemotherapy Trials in Lepromatous Leprosy*, conducted in Korea, the Philippines and Thailand; an interim report as of March 1985. This has been compiled by Dr Roland V Cellona, Chief, Epidemiology Branch, Leonard Wood Memorial, Cebu, Philippines and it covers no less than 5½ years of this important study from 1979 to 31 March 1985. The main body of the report is 25 pages long and there are detailed appendices. Although considerable caution is expressed in the conclusions, all who have been concerned with these trials through the years are unanimous in acknowledging their value in the training and familiarization of medical officers, laboratory technicians, nurses and paramedical workers with the concept of multiple drug therapy, thus going a long way to preparing the way for the implementation of WHO and similar regimens in the countries concerned. To those interested in drug trials and MDT, the document is well worth consulting in the original. (Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, The Sasakawa Hall, 6F, 3-12-12 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108, Japan.)

Essential Drugs Monitor

The Essential Drugs Monitor is a newsletter produced and distributed by the WHO Action Programme on Essential Drugs and Vaccines. Since the Action Programme was launched in 1981, more than 80 countries have either drawn up essential drugs lists or started projects in support of primary health care, providing reliable essential drugs and vaccines which: meet real medical needs; have significant therapeutic value; are acceptably safe; and offer satisfactory value for money. All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, Essential Drugs Monitor, World Health Organization, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Aspects of leprosy neuritis; a thesis in French from Dakar, Senegal

We are most grateful to Dr J Millan, Institut de Léprologie Appliquée, B.P. 11.023 CD Annexe, Dakar, Senegal, Africa, for a copy of this impressive thesis written by Dr Francois Boillot, based on experience gained during a 13-month period of study at the above Institute in Dakar. It has been presented to the Scientific and Medical University of Grenoble for the degree of 'Docteur en Médecine—Diplôme d'Etat'. The thesis combines a review of the literature, including an extensive bibliography, together with personal experiences and an analysis of the medical treatment of leprosy neuritis as seen in this Centre.

Dermatological journal from Portugal

We have received a copy of *Anais Brasileiros de Dermatologia*, the official organ of the Brazilian Society of Dermatology, Caixa Postal 389, 20000 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil, which, though mainly concerned with dermatology, also carries articles on leprosy. Those listed in the index of Volume 60, Number 6 of 1985 include contributions on subclinical infection, treatment, dermatoglyphics and the possible role of *Culex fatigans* in transmission. The language is Portuguese.

Training in leprosy; WHO publication

This valuable document (WHO/CDS/LEP/86.2) in English deals with the subject of training in leprosy under the following main headings: Introduction; training health personnel in leprosy; teaching and training considerations; teaching-learning materials on leprosy; references. This is virtually essential reading and study for all concerned with clinical management and leprosy control and represents the combined experience of Miss P J Neville, Education and Training Secretary of The Leprosy Mission International, Dr Felton Ross, Medical Adviser, American Leprosy Missions, USA and the Leprosy Unit, Division of Communicable Diseases, WHO, Geneva.

Vaccination trials against leprosy; WHO publication

In February 1985, at a '... meeting of the Epidemiology Sub-group of the Scientific Working Group on the Immunology of Leprosy', vaccination trials against leprosy were discussed in considerable detail and the subject matter has now been published in this WHO document: WHO/IMMLEP/EPD/85.3 The headings cover: vaccine trial designs; skin tests; sensitization and acceptability studies; serological tests.

Sample surveys in leprosy; WHO publication

Sample surveys in leprosy; an introductory manual (WHO/CDS/LEP/86.1) is written by T K Sundaresan, WHO Consultant in collaboration with Dr H Sansarricq (former Medical Officer, Leprosy), and Dr S K Noordeen, Chief Medical Officer, Leprosy, Division of Communicable Diseases, WHO, Geneva. It covers rationale; choice of sample design; sampling techniques; essential concepts in sampling; a table of random numbers; experience of the Leprosy Advisory Team; practical considerations; organization of a sample survey; procedures and criteria for diagnosis; nonsampling errors; periodic surveys for evaluation.

Health Policy and Planning; a new journal

Health Policy and Planning, A Journal on Health in Development, is concerned with issues in health policy, planning, management and evaluation, and focuses on these issues in the developing world. The journal is intended for people working in health care and in such organizations as ministries of health and planning centres, universities, faculties of medicine and schools of public health, and multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental international agencies. The journal is particularly relevant to those working in international health planning, medical care and community medicine, but it will also have appeal for readers outside the health sector in such fields as social policy and community development.

Articles will have an international perspective and there will be a good balance between theoretical content and practical approaches. They will cover current issues and debates in health policy as well as analyses on political, economic and social factors affecting health. There will be more specific reviews or research on the inter-relationship between health and health programmes, with an emphasis on evaluation studies and critical appraisals of current health programmes being implemented in countries. Articles will thus represent broad analytical approaches as well as the specific applications of such disciplines as epidemiology, economics, social anthropology and sociology to health related policy and planning issues. Provocative papers that explore and question conventional wisdom will be welcomed. Substantive review articles will be a regular feature, as will book reviews and information on forthcoming conferences and training courses.

Editors: Patrick Vaughan and Gill Walt, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7HT

Course in ocular leprosy, Karigiri, India, February 1986

A four-day ophthalmic module was held during the spring teaching course at Karigiri from 25 to 28 February 1986. It was designed to give instruction to leprologists and ophthalmologists on the detection and management of the ocular complications of leprosy by means of a series of formal lectures and clinical and surgical demonstrations. Dr Margaret Brand from Carville, USA, and Mr Timothy fytche from St Thomas' Hospital, London were invited to run the course. Lectures included

presentations on the anatomy and physiology of the eye with special relationship to leprosy, lagophthalmos, corneal ulcers and intra-ocular inflammation and there were contributions from the Karigiri staff on pathology and rehabilitation. The clinical sessions concentrated on the practical aspects of eye care, and teaching was supplemented by several videos. Dr Brand conducted a demonstration on various aspects of lid surgery.

There were seven participants from other centres and many of the leprologists on the general course attended the lectures. The module proved to be a great success and it is hoped that it will be repeated next year with an increased number of participants.

The Leprosy Mission and LEPRa are to be congratulated on their support for this important contribution to teaching.

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

We are indebted to the Secretary General of IFMSA, the General Secretariat, Liechtenseinstr. 13, A-1090, Vienna, Austria, for information about this Federation, which is '... a professional organization concerned with the betterment of people's health throughout the world. It represents the medical students from more than 100 countries and is in official relationship with WHO, UNICEF and other UN agencies besides many international non-governmental organizations.' They have recently organized a seminar on 'Health needs and student actions in developing countries' (August 1986).

Heralds of Health—The Saga of Christian Medical Initiatives

Edited by Stanley G Browne, Frank Davey and William A R Thomson. Published by Christian Medical Fellowship, 56 Kingsway, London WC2. Price £4.95. We are indebted to Dr Harold Wheate for the following review:

"In his Foreword to this book, Lord Porritt says 'This is a very remarkable book—it could justly be described, in the truest sense of the word, as 'extra-ordinary'. Based on the ancient historical connection between religion and medicine it is indeed a saga (again an apt description) of medical missionaries and missionary hospitals during the last century and a half.'

The 20 chapters cover a wide spectrum, from surgery to medical education, from the pioneer curative work of the early missionaries to the role of the Christian Medical Commission of the World Council of Churches in propagating the concept of Primary Health Care.

The contributors all have a high reputation in their respective fields and, as one would expect, write lucidly on their subject. Although there is inevitably some overlap there is remarkably little repetition and the style throughout is factual and free from sentimentality. Two statements are worth quoting, as illustrating the motivation of the authors and their purpose in writing not merely for those interested in medical missions but for all concerned with health care delivery in the Third World:

'Christian medical work does not begin in the crowded out-patient department: it begins in research directed to the prevention of disease.' (p. 89)

'The people who need rehabilitation are not merely patients who have specific physical disabilities; they are human beings who feel that they are failures. . . . In this situation they need faith and hope.' (p. 269).

In the later chapters, the gradual development of increasing cooperation between different Christian missions and between them and national Governments and international bodies, notably WHO, is emphasized, especially as to medical education and the contribution of national and international coworkers.

This book is a fitting tribute not only to all those whose exploits it records but also to the three editors, who were themselves fine examples of devoted Christian service to their fellow-men."

The Grants Register 1985–6

The following is taken from the Editor's Note: *The Grants Register* is primarily intended for students at or above the graduate level and for all who require further professional or advanced vocational training. The following kinds of assistance—from government agencies, and international, national or private organizations—are listed: 1. Scholarships, Fellowships and Research Grants. 2. Exchange Opportunities, Vacation Study Awards and Travel Grants. 3. Grants-in-Aid—including equipment, publication and translation grants, and funds for attending seminars, courses, conferences, etc. 4. Grants for all kinds of artistic or scientific projects. 5. Competitions, Prizes and Honoraria—including awards in recognition or support of creative work. 6. Professional and Vocational Awards—including opportunities for academic and administrative staff of educational institutions. 7. Special Awards—for refugees, minority groups, etc., and funds for students in unexpected financial difficulties.

No attempt is made to list awards that are solely sponsored by a particular university or college as such awards are already well publicized.

The Grants Register aims to provide full, current information on awards for nationals of the United States and Canada, the United Kingdom and Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa and the developing countries. However, as many of the awards listed are international in scope, the book is also useful to students from other countries who are seeking exchange opportunities or international scholarships.

There are over 1600 entries, many of which have information on up to 10 grants. Medicine and science are dealt with in full and there are numerous opportunities under: immunology, pathology, microbiology, tuberculosis, leprosy, community and primary health care. Published by Macmillan Publishers Ltd, London. Distributed by Globe Book Services Ltd, Brunel Road, Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 2XS, England. Price: £32.00 sterling.

WHO Catalogue of New Books, Spring/Summer 1986

Pages 12 and 13 of this recently issued catalogue contain the following information which may be of interest to our readers:

WHO publications on special terms of purchase. Many WHO publications, especially in the areas of communicable diseases, education and training, and national health management, are intended to support the improvement of public health in the developing world. Individuals, institutions, universities, and libraries, located in developing areas and in need of a WHO publication, are encouraged to write to WHO for information on special terms of purchase.

Meetings. If you are planning or organizing a meeting on any topic covered in this catalogue, WHO will be happy to supply participants with a list of new, forthcoming, and classic reference works in the appropriate area of interest. Write to: World Health Organization, Distribution and Sales, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

Symposium on multidrug therapy in leprosy; DAHW, Würzburg, April 1986

The German Leprosy Relief Association recently organized a meeting of international participants in Würzburg, Germany, to consider progress in the use of multiple drug therapy for leprosy. Under the main headings of clinical reports, test models for effectiveness of chemotherapy, developments and future aspects, reports were given from the USA, Europe and many of the leprosy-endemic countries, with emphasis on experience to date on acceptability, side-effects, clinical results and follow up after various regimens including those using Isoprodian and the combinations recommended by WHO.

All papers, together with discussion and some of the opening speeches, will be printed in this Journal as a full supplement in the near future.

XVI General Assembly of ILEP, Edinburgh, July 1986

The following press release was issued by LEPRAs on the occasion of this meeting in Edinburgh:

'Seventeen major voluntary agencies, all Members of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), met in Edinburgh from 1 to 6 July 1986 for their XVIth General Assembly.

The meetings were to ensure continuing co-operation between the agencies in leprosy work in more than 100 developing countries, and to enable the best use of resources by avoiding competition and duplication.

1986 is also the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Federation. During this time ILEP Members have spent 350 million US dollars, treating about 1½ million leprosy patients every year; 1 million have been cured and 2–3 million new cases detected. ILEP helps at least a third of all those under treatment in the world.

The lion's share of support (70%) goes to treatment projects, but ILEP Members are increasingly turning their attention to research (3.9 million US dollars in 1985). The 20th anniversary has been used as an occasion to launch a series of research projects in areas identified by the ILEP Medical Commission as vital for the future of leprosy control. The first of these, a vaccine trial, is already under way in Malawi under the leadership of LEPRAs.

In the realm of treatment, the most important breakthrough in recent years was the introduction of multidrug therapy (MDT), to combat the risk of drug resistance and shorten the length of treatment. The majority of ILEP-supported projects are already implementing MDT in some form.

The General Assembly invested as President, Mr André Récipon, President of the Raoul Follereau Association in France, for the period 1986 to 1988, in place of the outgoing President, Mr G F Harris of LEPRAs (UK).'

LEPRAs London Office; change of address

Please note that as from 12 July 1986, LEPRAs London Office will be at 105–107 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3BT. Telephone 01-833-3491. This is also the 'Registered Office' of the British Leprosy Relief Association.

Leprosy for medical practitioners and paramedical workers; Ciba-Geigy, 1986

This 92 pp booklet by Giba-Geigy, written by Dr R H Thangaraj and Professor S J Yawalkar, has just been published and will no doubt fill a continuing need for accurate up-to-date information. As always with publications from this source, the quality of production is very high and there are over 80 colour prints, including both clinical and histopathological aspects. Medical Department, Giba-Geigy Ltd, Basle, Switzerland.

AHRTAG, London: drug packaging

Following the distribution of a recent questionnaire, Mr K Ritchie, Executive Director of AHRTAG, 85 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE, has written to say that information on drug packaging will now be analysed and probably published in the near future. He adds that a partner organization in Bangladesh is helping AHRTAG by field-testing equipment for the production of small paper envelopes, cardboard boxes and small canisters from scrap plastic. Enquiries to the above address.

XIII International Leprosy Congress, 1988; the Hague

This will take place in the Hague, 11–17 September 1988 and those wishing to receive a registration form and abstract form (for poster and/or an oral presentation) should apply to Congress Bureau, QLT Convention Services, Alton House, Keizersgracht 792, 1017 EC, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The scientific sessions and scope of the Congress are as follows:

Congress Subjects

Twelve congress subjects are planned, namely: I Immunology; II Clinical Aspects; III Experimental leprosy; IV Microbiology; V Epidemiology and control; VI Treatment; VII Nerve damage; VIII Surgery and rehabilitation; IX Ophthalmology; X Social aspects; XI Experimental therapy and XII Pathology.

Poster Sessions

Special attention will be given to poster presentations in order to maximize the personal discussions and explanations of your research. The organizing committee will provide a well-planned schedule of poster presentations during the congress days in connection with, and completing the 12 congress themes. The organization will provide professional graphical assistance to participants for the preparation of their posters. This service is provided to present your scientific results in the most perceptive manner.

State of the Art

Every morning a one-hour session will cover all the recent progresses in the main fields of research. The 'Starters of the day' will be given by 5 experts on: A Immunological tools for leprosy control; B Recent developments in molecular biology; C Operational aspects of multidrug chemotherapy; D Nerve damage and E Social aspects in primary health care.

Teaching and Training Sessions

During the congress continuous teaching and training sessions will be held. Video films, continuous slide presentations and films will cover the following subjects: 1 Immunology; 2 Pathology of early leprosy; 3 Reactive phenomena; 4 Epidemiology; 5 Case

taking; 6 Information systems; 7 Deformity; 8 Disability assessment; 9 Vocational rehabilitation and 10 Health education.

After each presentation a question and answer period is planned.

Workshops

The workshops will be held in the week preceding the congress. The summaries made by the chairmen will be made available by the end of the congress. Subjects to be covered are: Immunology, Epidemiology, Chemotherapy, Control, Information systems, Diagnosis and clinical aspects, Training, Prevention and management of impairment rehabilitation, Vaccine trials, Social aspects and Health education.

Proceedings of the XII International Leprosy Congress

The above volume is now available from The Leprosy Mission, 5 Amrita Shergill Marg, New Delhi 100 003, India. The cost including postal charges (this volume weighs nearly 1½ kg) is: air mail, US \$30.00; surface mail, US \$20.00.

The Dr Ragavendra Row Memorial Teaching Programme in Leprosy 1986

The 1 day programme (28 February 1986) was this year devoted to the teaching of pathology of leprosy to a small group (4 from each medical college) of pathology postgraduate students. It was held at the Department of Pathology, Grant Medical College, with the whole-hearted cooperation of Professor U L Waghlikar and the ready assent of the Professors of Pathology from 3 other medical colleges.

Dr K V Desikan, Director, Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy, Agra was the invited teacher and he was assisted by Dr B Narayanan, Immunopathologist at the same Institute.

A special feature of the programme is that each participant is presented with a set of histology slides of skin and nerve for individual study and evaluation, after being introduced to the basis of the immunopathologic classification of leprosy. After individual study of the slides, the teachers demonstrated features of note and answered several questions.

Dr C V Bapat spoke briefly about recent knowledge on the microbiology of the leprosy bacillus.

The participants were asked to evaluate (anonymously) the day's programme after the session was over. All of them expressed their satisfaction with the plan of teaching and said they had benefited from the histology teaching.

The participants and teachers were asked to suggest ways on improving the content and conduct of the programme. The important suggestions were:

- 1 More time to be given for individual study of the slides.
- 2 The histopathology material to be prepared well in advance and to be representative of the leprosy spectrum.
- 3 The students themselves should do the Fite Faraco stain in advance.
- 4 There should be a postprogramme spot test.