

## Teaching Materials and Services

### **Dermatology in Basic Health Services**

The following were the conclusion and recommendations of the International Workshop 'Dermatology in Basic Health Services' on behalf of the Scientific Secretariat of the 17th World Congress on Dermatology (CMD) and the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), 20–23 May 1987, Berlin (West):

The epidemiology of skin diseases in Africa, Asia and Latin America indicates that in general about 30% of patients seeking medical help are suffering from skin affections. It appears that a majority of the skin diseases are associated with poor socioeconomic conditions, lack of environmental hygiene, inappropriate housing and environmental conditions favouring parasitic, bacterial and fungal infections. Since not sufficient dermatologists are available—some countries do not have any—the strengthening of dermatology within primary health care is clearly needed.

Existing data extracted from hospital records and population surveys should be reviewed epidemiologically and additional well-planned studies are needed to define priorities for the prevention and care of skin diseases, leprosy and STD to identify target populations.

There is need for development of a methodology for rural and peri-urban dermatological care by using reproducible and realistic models. Control of skin diseases, leprosy and sexually transmitted diseases requires the development of inexpensive, appropriate health education materials designed for health personnel of different levels.

The national governments and international and bilateral agencies of technical assistance ought to recognize the overall importance of skin diseases and in so doing support and finance a better planning and integration of dermatology into primary health care.

A global strategy is needed for international collaboration amongst developing countries and with the developed parts of the world. WHO should give greater support and priority to dermatological work in developing countries.

There is a need to develop basic national formularies meeting the requirements of primary dermatological care. Basic medicaments including traditional medicines should preferably be produced locally and at low cost. To facilitate the availability of formulations regarded as essential for the treatment of common skin diseases at primary health care level, it is recommended to include them in WHO's Model List of Essential Drugs.

The creation of regional centres for basic applied and clinical research and training in dermatology should be supported.

Enquiries: German Foundation for International Development Reicherwerder, D-1000 Berlin (West) Germany.

### **University of Dundee: Centre for Medical Education**

Although scheduled for March 1987 and thus too late as information in this issue, we nevertheless draw attention to three courses offered by the Centre for Medical Education, Ninewells Hospital and Medical School, Dundee DD1 9SY, Scotland: 1, curriculum planning; 2, assessment in medical education; and 3, design and production of learning resources. These are all designed for medical and paramedical teachers. Apply to the above address for details of numerous other courses.

This Centre now has very considerable experience in medical education, including curriculum planning. Countries with continuing defects in their approach to teaching and learning in leprosy might seriously consider a formal approach to the Director of this Centre, for advice. *Editor.*

### **Leprosy Relief Organization Munich e.V. (AHM)**

The Leprosy Relief Organization Munich e.V. was founded in 1972 by a group of Munich citizens with the following target: Relief activities within the leprosy complex.

These worldwide relief activities carried out by AHM include the following fields of equal importance: 1, *Medical Field*: Financial support of leprosy-projects, hospitals, leprosy wards. Medical mass examination, medical therapies; 2, *Social Field*: Financial support of rehabilitation centres and measures, preventative measures, leprosy health education.

The complex relief activities of AHM are based on the following ideas resulting out of experience. The main point is to recognize leprosy, which is today a curable disease, at the earliest possible stage. This also means the enlightenment of those not suffering from leprosy in developing countries affected. In other words, the relief activities launched by AHM are not only understood and practised as a medical process of healing, but also preventatively as a process of learning especially for the youth of the developing countries. Not only will medical relief measures be carried out by trained staff, but the attitude towards leprosy by the population in the developing countries will be changed positively. The stigma of leprosy will be removed and thus psychological preconditions will be achieved to heal people with modern means at the earliest stage.

As a result of the 12th International Leprosy Congress in New Delhi 1984, an active and permanent working relationship between the AHM and Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, Wardha came into being. The GMLF received significant input from the AHM. The AHM also cofounded the Centre of Social Science for Leprosy in Wardha, through its sponsorship of the Centre's Director, Professor Mutatkar. Research of this kind is absolutely necessary to introduce cost saving measures and to break the stigma of leprosy within the population.

On 1 April 1987 AHM opened an office in Pune, India to continue and put into practice the work which was started at the Social Science Research Centre in Wardha. Professor Mutatkar, founder of the Wardha Centre, has agreed to act as an advisor on the advisory committee. Dr Mutatkar, a leprosy specialist and an experienced leprosy officer, is the regional director of AHM-India Office in Pune.

Further enquiries: AHM, Zenettstrasse 45, D-8000, Munich 2, West Germany.

### Teaching and Learning Materials on Leprosy for India, TLM I

Dr R H Thangaraj has now retired as the Leprosy Mission's Director for Southern Asia. However, Dr (Mrs) E S Thangaraj will continue her work as Medical Coordinator and will still supervise the distribution of literature. All correspondence and orders should be addressed to Dr (Mrs) E S Thangaraj, Medical Coordinator, The Leprosy Mission, Salur 532 591, Vizianagram District, Andhra Pradesh, India.

### OXFAM-LEPRA, Oxford, UK. A mini-pack of teaching materials on leprosy

Following the development and distribution of a larger pack of teaching-training materials on leprosy during the past 2 or 3 years, OXFAM in cooperation with LEPRA have assembled 100 packs containing only 8 items, as follows:

- 1 *Chemotherapy of Leprosy for Control Programmes* (1983). Technical Report Series 675, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.
- 2 *OXFAM Memorandum on the Implementation of Multiple Drug Therapy (MDT) for Leprosy* (1984). The Health Unit, OXFAM, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, UK.
- 3 *Leprosy* (1979) by Bryceson and Pfaltzgraff. Published by Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, UK.
- 4 *The Diagnosis and Management of Early Leprosy* (1983) by Browne. Published by the Leprosy Mission International, London, UK.
- 5 *Better Care in Leprosy* (1978). Published by the Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi, India.
- 6 *Insensitive Feet* (1981) by Paul Brand. Published by the Leprosy Mission International, London, UK.
- 7 *Technical Guide for Smear Examination for Leprosy by Direct Microscopy* (1983) by Leiker and McDougall. Published by the Leprosy Documentation Service (INFOLEP), Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- 8 *Atlas of Leprosy* (1983). Published by the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, Tokyo, Japan.

Intended mainly for: Medical students, medical officers (with or without experience of leprosy), leprosy control officers, nurses, tutors and other potential teachers.

In view of the high cost of postage by air or surface mail, OXFAM strongly recommends 'personal' delivery. Copies may be obtained by calling at OXFAM in Oxford during normal working hours or by writing to The Health Unit, OXFAM, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, UK. Delivery, especially for bulk orders, may also be possible through embassies and consulates in London and by liaison with ILEP, the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, 234 Blythe Road, London W14 (Tel. 01-602 6925) which holds twice-yearly meetings, often abroad, cost UK £10.

### International Disability Education and Awareness

Based at William House, 101 Eden Vale Road, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3QF, England, this organization runs courses periodically on disability and rehabilitation. The broad description introducing a recent course ran as follows: 'We welcome anyone who is working or is about to work overseas with people with disabilities and those concerned with work in this field. Practical and theoretical sessions provide a forum for participants and tutors to share their experiences, skills and ideas and to look at some of the fundamental issues behind Disability and Development.'