

## OPERATIONAL RESEARCH AND ITS AIMS

Sir,

In an effort to encourage more submissions on this topic we would like to express how useful the exchange of ideas in the field would be and that *Leprosy Review* would be well placed for doing this.

The basic aim of operational research is to carry out work to improve the operational efficiency as well as the effectiveness of leprosy work. This could be issues such as the packaging of drugs and their distribution; major reviews of the operation of a leprosy programme. Many simple studies are done looking at the compliance rates which involved interviewing field staff and patients, reviewing reports on the programme and then making simple changes which are effective in improving treatment and compliance. Other projects include looking at trials of health education materials, and validation of diagnostic criteria.

These projects are worth reporting for the benefit of others working in the field because they could have important effects on other programmes if this kind of information were shared.

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