

Teaching Materials and Services

Orthopaedic and reconstructive surgery in leprosy—new video

We have recently produced a five set Video Cassettes in VHS format on the latest techniques of Orthopaedic and Reconstructive Surgery in Leprosy. This presentation is based on a Workshop held in 1995 at Calcutta on 'An update on surgery in leprosy' where experienced reconstructive surgeons gathered to demonstrate their techniques. This set of Videos was made possible through a grant from The Leprosy Mission, and would be of an excellent asset to any reconstruction surgeon or to an institution dealing with leprosy. The target groups would include medical students undertaking surgery for leprosy deformities, and others interested in learning about reconstructive surgery.

The price for a set of 5 videos is only US\$100 or £60 including postage and packing.

If you would like us to supply these cassettes to any of the institutions that you are supporting, or to any one else, we would be glad to do so.

If you need more information apply: Dr P. S. S. Sundar Rao, Schieffelin Leprosy Research and Training Centre, Karigiri 632 106, North Arcott District, Tamilnadu, South India. Fax 91-416-74274.

Diploma in community-based rehabilitation management, new course, India

This course of one-year duration, aims at training practical managers at grass roots levels using multidisciplinary approaches to community-based rehabilitation, relevant to both National and International programmes.

Graduates preferably with experience are eligible. Tuition fee will be Rs. 6,000/-; Board and Lodging, about Rs. 750/- per month.

Karigiri is easily approachable from Madras (Chennai) or Vellore.

For further details Contact The Director/Registrar, SLR & TC, Karigiri, Tamil Nadu-632 106, India.

Managing Health Programmes in Developing Countries, Harvard, USA

The above course is run annually by Harvard School of Public Health. This year's course will run from 15 June–7 August 1998. The following is taken from the brochure:

Purpose

Managers of health care organizations in developing countries face enormous challenges. While public demand for services has steadily grown, financial and human resources have become increasingly unstable and insufficient. Managers are coping daily with inadequate facilities and supplies, poorly-trained and/or poorly-motivated staff, insufficient information for decision-making, rapidly changing technology and fluctuating political support. There is tremendous pressure to initiate positive change within such demanding circumstances. Health sector reform has only increased the need for competent managers.

This Harvard School of Public Health program, sponsored by the Harvard Health Management Group and the Center for Continuing Professional Education, has been developed to enhance the skills of mid-career health care managers in developing countries. It allows the mid-career manager who does not have the option of enrolling in a lengthy degree program to gain advanced skills for organizational success.

The faculty for the program are experts in the field of health care management, and familiar with the particular challenges facing health care managers in developing countries. Participants will also learn from dynamic exchanges with fellow members of the program. In addition, a number of special seminars on topics from HIV/AIDS to Operations Research are held.

Who should attend

This program has been especially designed for managers and health professionals from developing countries who work in both government and private sector health organizations, including curative (hospital) and preventive health programs, at the national, provincial and district levels. It will also be of interest to health care managers from industrialized nations who work in developing countries. The course is limited to individuals with professional health care experience, but prior formal training in management is not required or expected.

Space in this program is limited and each year more qualified candidates apply than can be admitted. It is therefore important for interested individuals to apply early.

For further details—course content, fees, financial assistance—write to: Vivien Goldman, Course Director, Harvard School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Avenue, SPHI-1210, Boston, Mass 02115, USA. Fax: 1 617 432 1323. email: vgoldman@sph.harvard.edu. Internet site: <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/mhpcd.html>.

Training for the handicapped in photography, VRC, India

The Vocational Rehabilitation Centre (VRC), an institution run by the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India, in Mumbai is conducting a training programme in photography for handicapped persons including leprosy-cured patients in collaboration with the Bombay Leprosy project (BLP), an NGO working with the aim of integrating leprosy patients with other handicapped people.

A review of this six-month training course was held on 20 October 1997 at the VRC. On this occasion, Mr R. Narasimham, Sr. Superintendent of VRC said that he has always been concerned about the plight of leprosy patients since his studenthood and assured to provide the best services through VRC. The experience of VRC shows that leprosy patients receiving training in a non leprosy institution contribute to abolish stigma.

Dr R. Ganapati, Director, BLP while applauding the efforts made by the VRC to bring the leprosy-cured persons into the mainstream of their vocational training for handicapped, expressed the need for offering such training particularly in sophisticated fields such as photography, computers and electronics, etc. These professions are assuming importance in the modern age of advancing technology. The trainees who undergo practical training on the technical aspects of medical and commercial photography will promote BLP's novel concept of harnessing the skills of the handicapped even in areas of research. These patients will assist the 'documentation cell' of the project and thereby augment research in leprosy.

Mr V. Y. More, Instructor, VRC, Mr T. P. Mirajkar, Rehabilitation Officer, BLP and Mr P. Narayanasamy, Manager, BLP participated in the review.

'Sustaining Leprosy Related Activities—Guidelines for Responding to Change', ILEP

The introduction of multidrug treatment (MDT) for the treatment of leprosy has radically changed the

extend and nature of the leprosy problem. Millions of leprosy patients have now been successfully treated. However, leprosy is a continuing problem, since leprosy cases occur each year. It is therefore essential to sustain leprosy services. Yet the structure and size of these services must change. In many countries, this is already happening, combining with other disease control programmes and integrating into primary health care services. Also, financial responsibilities are bound to shift towards governments and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It is vital to carefully assess the need and plan for these changes. These Guidelines are the outcome of a workshop organized by International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) and Netherlands Leprosy Relief Associations (NSL) held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in September 1996. During the workshop, leprosy experts and health planners discussed various issues and aspects related to the improvement of the sustainability of leprosy services. The resulting guidelines are intended to facilitate this process. They are directed to programme managers and policy makers and follow a stepwise and participatory planning approach.

The booklet is divided into three parts. The first part deals with the necessary situational analysis of existing services. Part two describes the possible planning steps in the process of organisational change. The last section describes useful strategies and mechanisms in the implementation of the desired change.

The booklet is available, free of charge to personnel active in this field, from: International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP), 234 Blythe Road, London, W14 0HJ, UK. Fax: +44 171 371 1621; E-mail: ilep@ilep.org.uk.

Diagnosis and treatment of skin infections, 1997, Blackwell Science Ltd, UK

Blackwell Science Ltd., Oxford have recently published a book on the above subject, edited by Professor Marwali Harahap, Professor of Dermatology, School of Medicine, University of North Sumatra, Medan, Indonesia. It is a hardback of 448 pages, plus a detailed index. The main chapter headings are—principles of anti-infective therapy, staphylococcal and streptococcal skin infections, parasitic infections, skin infections with AIDS and HIV-immunocompromised patients, fungal infections, leprosy and infections in dermatological surgery. The text is illustrated with colour plates of high quality. With the exception of the Editor, two contributors from the UK and one from Germany, all the authors are from the USA, many of them with long experience of treating a wide range of patients, including immigrants and those of Hispanic origin. Price £89.50. Available from Blackwell Science Ltd., Osney Mead, Oxford, Oxford OX2 0EL, United Kingdom, or through recognized medical bookshops.

Essentials of Leprosy, sixth edition. L. J. Yoder and J. M. H. Pearson

The 6th edition, 1996 of this extremely well-known booklet has recently appeared, including a chapter on Leprosy in the Eye by E Zijp and a complete set of new colour plates from A. Colin McDougall, Oxford, UK. As in previous years this booklet comes from Talmilep, Teaching and Learning Materials in Leprosy, a joint project of the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP) and is obtainable, essentially free of charge, through The Leprosy Mission International, 80 Windmill Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0QH, United Kingdom. There are 16 chapters, covering all main aspects of leprosy, plus two appendices, one dealing with the taking and interpretation of skin smears and the other with biopsies. This is an outstandingly good source of information and one which has already had a highly successful track record of distribution worldwide for many years. The format and appearance of the Sixth Edition have been markedly improved and it is to be hoped that it will achieve distribution and acceptance without delay, in all countries with a continuing leprosy problem.

A distance-learning resource for tropical medicine

From the Wellcome Trust in London comes the news of the *Tropical Medicine Resource (TMR)* now operating from the Wellcome Centre, which enables anyone with IBM-compatible hardware and commercially available Windows-based software to access its archives. The TMR Bulletin, *Focus*, August 1996, reports that in its first appraisal of the service over 160 centres in 44 countries participated. The results are now being analysed.

TMR appreciates that there are still many countries where the technology does not allow participation. Where a beginning is possible, an effort is being made to target universities and other centres of learning, while remembering the needs of 'students who may be new to computers, with English as their professional, but (at best) their second language, and perhaps working under difficult conditions (e.g. in Sri Lanka by generator, after a hurricane!) ... TMR stands alone but is best used to complement other sources of reliable information, not least, experienced teachers and practitioners with sound local as well as academic knowledge'.

Consultations between Robyn Young of TMR and AIM are proceeding, and it is hoped that avenues of collaboration which can benefit AIM members will be found.

Information can be obtained from: The Wellcome Trust, Tropical Medicine Resource, 210 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, UK, Tel: (44) (0)171-611 8460, Fax: (44) (0)171-611 8472.

ECHO: Selecting medical supplies for basic health care

Selecting Medical Supplies for Basic Health Care, R. Skinner, J. Townsend, V. Wells, ECHO, 1995, 30 p.

In view of the great financial pressures experienced by health services, there is a critical need to ensure that the best and most efficient use is made of all supplies. For many years WHO's Model List of Essential Drugs has been helping countries meet their highest priority treatment needs with a well-chosen list of basic low-cost products. As yet no one had developed a satisfactory model list of essential medical supplies to complement the drugs list. With its new publication, Equipment for Charity Hospitals Overseas (ECHO) has provided a list which facilitates choice of the most appropriate supplies for basic medical care. The authors identify the essential stocks that should always be available; and give advice on priority setting for procurement and good supply management in medical stores, hospitals and clinics.

The authors stress that a model list has to be transformed into a standardised local list. They encourage the setting up of standard practice protocols, which can guide health workers into more cost effective clinical practice by specifying the appropriate medical supply items to use in diagnosis and care.

The publication will be useful for health ministries, supply organizations, health care institutions and development agencies.

Available from: Echo International Health Services. Ullswater Crescent, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2HR, UK. Price £3.

Pharmacy Library Pack, TALC, UK

The high cost of drugs and supplies is one cause of the financial difficulties hospitals and health centres are experiencing. The *Pharmacy Library Pack* has therefore been produced to help managers of pharmaceutical systems to use their drugs budget cost effectively. The Pack was compiled by an expert group from four UK organizations: ECHO International Health Services, The Essential Drugs Project, The Robert Gordon University School of Pharmacy, and Teaching Aids at Low Cost (TALC).

Eleven items cover the main functions of the drug supply system: acquisition, holding, dispensing and rational and economic use. They have been chosen with the needs of hospital directors and managers, pharmacists and storekeepers in mind. The Pack contains: WHO Model List of Essential Drugs; WHO Financing Essential Drugs: Report of a WHO Workshop 1988 and Ten Questions to Ask About Revolving Drug Funds (Tropical Doctor); MSH International Drug Price Indicator Guide; CMC Guidelines for Donors and Recipients of Pharmaceutical Donations, and of Medical Equipment Donations; AHRTAG How to Manage a Health Centre Store; MSF Essential Drugs—Practical Guidelines; WHO Guidelines and Sterilisation and Disinfection Methods Effective Against HIV; British National Formulary; MSF Clinical Guidelines, Diagnostic and Treatment Manual; WHO/CDR Leaflets: Management of the Patient with Diarrhoea and Acute Respiratory Infections; and WHO/DAP Indicators: How to Investigate Drug Use in Health Facilities.

Available (as a complete pack form only) from: TALC, P.O. Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TX, UK. Tel: +44 1727 853869, fax: +44 1727 846852. Price: £47 surface mail, £62 airmail.

Leprosy in childhood, revised and updated 1997—slide set

This set of slides was originally produced and widely distributed in the early 1970's, based on the experience of Dr Colin McDougall in the national leprosy control programme in Zambia. Many of the clinical pictures are thus African, but the main clinical messages are applicable to patients in other parts of the world and the definitions and criteria for diagnosis, classification of leprosy and the treatment of all patients with regimens of multiple drug therapy (MDT) are based on current WHO recommendations. Whilst most of the transparencies are of children, this set of slides and the text are also suitable for teaching and learning about the main features of leprosy in adults. Dr Felicity Savage contributed to a revision in 1989, which included a rewriting of the text for those whose first language is not English. The set has recently (1997) been further revised, to include reference to changes in the chemotherapy of leprosy, as advised by WHO.

Colour transparency teaching set (24 slides) with explanatory text (20 pages). Cost: Self-mounting sets with text, £5.50.

Available from TAC: Teaching Aids at Low Cost, PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 4AX, United Kingdom. Tel: (0)1727 53869; Fax: (0)1727 46852.

Order forms, with details of postal costs and description of sets mounted, in file/folder, or on slide/tape, are available from TALC above.

INASP-Health

INASP-Health is a demand-led initiative based on the recommendations of the 1994 London conference 'Getting health information to developing countries', hosted by the *British Medical Journal*. It is supported by the Overseas Development Administration (UK) and the British Medical Association.

Over the next 3 years we are introducing a unique programme to help you achieve your goals. The programme offers:

- A point of reference for the health information provider (HIP) community: HIP organizations, health librarians, funding agencies, and others committed to the provision of **reliable information for health workers in developing countries**.
- An evolving picture of information needs and provision in the developing world, helping to prioritize future strategies.

- An advocacy structure to promote cost-effective initiatives and to lobby for increased political and financial commitment to HIP activities.

Contact: Dr Neil Pakenham—Walsh Programme Manager, INASP-Health (Oxford Office) 27 Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HU, United Kingdom.

14th Board Meeting of the Novartis (previously Ciba-Geigy) Leprosy Fund, Basel, Switzerland, June 1997

Chaired by Professor K. M. Leisinger, this Fund met recently in Basel to consider current programmes in various parts of the world and new applications for support. Originally directed almost exclusively to case finding and the implementation of multiple drug therapy (or improving programme conditions so that this would be possible), the Fund has now extended its support to some aspects of disability prevention and management, preferably linked, however, to case finding and MDT. The invited experts are Dr N. M. Chitimba (WHO, Africa), Professor S. R. Pattyn (Tropical Medicine Institute, Antwerp, Belgium), Dr H. Sansarricq (previously Leprosy Unit, WHO, Geneva) and Dr A. C. McDougall (Department of Dermatology, Oxford, UK). Progress in projects already receiving support was reviewed from Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, Nepal, Ethiopia, China and Madagascar. Dr N. M. Chitimba reported on the main discussions and recommendations of the recent *7th Expert Committee on Leprosy*, held in Geneva. The Leprosy Fund operates within the *Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development* and is prepared to consider applications from agencies working in the field of leprosy whose main objective is the elimination of leprosy as defined by WHO.

Revista de Leptologia, Fontilles, Spain

We are grateful to the Medical Director of Fontilles Leprosarium, Alicante Province, Spain, Dr Terencio de las Aguas, for continuing to send copies of the *Revista*. The January–April issue, 1997, carries an extremely detailed review of immunology in leprosy (72 pages), accompanied by 313 references. This must surely represent the most comprehensive review of the state of immunological knowledge in leprosy so far published in Spanish and it is to be hoped that it will achieve wide circulation in Spanish-speaking endemic countries. As usual the reviews of recently published articles, with summaries in Spanish, are also a valuable source of information on all aspects of the disease. *Further enquiries:* Sanatorio San Francisco de Borja, 03791, Fontilles, Alicante, Spain.