

Colin McDougall

It is a great pleasure to dedicate this issue of *Leprosy Review* to Colin McDougall. Colin is a tireless worker for leprosy. His work with mycobacteria started with tuberculosis work in Singapore and he later moved into leprosy work in Zambia. He then returned to England and specialized in leprosy histopathology. A key collaboration at this time was with the Oxford neuro-anatomist Graham Weddell, with whom he studied leprosy nerve damage. Colin established a leprosy research unit at The Slade Hospital in Oxford and worked with Dick Rees and Michael Waters in a unique series of studies documenting the ability of *Mycobacterium leprae* to remain in a persistor form. In the 1980s, Colin quickly recognized the potential of multidrug therapy and as medical adviser to Lepra ensured that this treatment was implemented as quickly as possible. Without effective, time limited multidrug therapy it would have been impossible to conceive of the Leprosy Elimination Campaigns that are reported and discussed in this special issue edited by Colin. Colin's record of collaboration and teaching is almost unsurpassable; with his histopathological expertise he supported studies all over the world, notably the Lepra-funded Karonga studies in Malawi. Perhaps Colin's greatest contribution has been in his generous and warm encouragement for people interested in working in leprosy. I have met people from Africa, Asia and the Americas who say that without Colin's encouragement their own work would never have developed and his aerogrammes of hand-written encouragement are legendary. He is also a hawk-eyed editor and skilfully edited *Leprosy Review* for 10 years. He continues to support the journal and takes particular care in helping authors who have little support or help with their research. Colin has been enthused by the Leprosy Elimination Campaign and the possibilities that it offers for disease control. He has been the perfect choice as a guest editor and I would like to thank him for all the work he has put into producing this issue and dedicate it to him as a token of our appreciation.

Diana N. J. Lockwood

