

Scholarship Guidelines for the Dick Rees Memorial Fund

Announcement

In honour of the late Dick Rees, LEPRO has decided to set up a training fund for those working in the field of leprosy. This fund will incorporate monies donated in his memory. Dick Rees was a leading researcher in the field of leprosy over a period of 25 years. He began his medical research career working on TB at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, London, but gradually switched from research into leprosy. One of his major contributions to the effective treatment and cure of leprosy was his demonstration of primary and secondary drug resistance to existing drug treatments. This led to the development of multi-drug therapy by WHO in the early 1980s. He was made chairperson of LEPRO's (The British Leprosy Relief Association) Medical Advisory Board in 1963 and was appointed Head of the Medical Research Council's Laboratory for Leprosy Research in 1969. Here he developed a source of live *Mycobacterium leprae* bacteria by setting up a colony of infected armadillo. It is from this source that the latest research on the genome sequencing of the leprosy bacillus has been derived. Dick Rees died last October at the age of 81. His scientific abilities and commitment to the cause of leprosy will be missed by all in the field of leprosy, particularly those working at LEPRO and WHO. Even after his retirement in 1982 he continued to work for both organizations, influencing and inspiring many to bring about a world without leprosy.

Circulation of guidelines

This set of guidelines will be made available to all ILEP members and Leprosy Training Institutions. It will be advertised in *Leprosy Review*, *The International Journal of Leprosy*, *The Indian Journal of Leprosy*, CBR Journals and on the Internet. The target group for the scholarship are leprosy workers in the field who have had limited training opportunities.

Application process

1. AMOUNT AVAILABLE

£20,000 will be available each year. This may be split between a number of candidates. Selection will be based on the merit of the applications; making the best use of this limited amount of funding. Each award will be sufficient to cover the costs of the training selected, the travel and living costs for the duration of the training and where justified, additional costs to facilitate access.

2. SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- Candidates should be citizens of countries where leprosy is a problem.
- The training selected should enhance their ability to contribute to the field of leprosy.

- Candidates should have a commitment from their employer that they will release them for the duration of the training and keep their job open for them on their return.
- Candidates agree to any bond arrangements stipulated by their employer.
- The course selected normally should be no longer than 6 months.
- The training selected normally should be at the closest venue that offers the level of qualification and recognition sought by the candidate.
- The selected candidates will produce a report at the end of the training to indicate its value in relation to their expectations as outlined in their application.

3. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Consideration will be given to those who have justified additional costs which would facilitate their participation in their preferred training (for example child care costs).

4. APPLICATION DETAILS

Applications should include the CV of the candidate and details of the training or course selected:

- For *training*, the candidate should provide a description of the training and its objectives, i.e. knowledge and practical skills to be gained by end of training.
- For *courses*, the candidate should provide the course name and course content.

For both, the following should be provided:

- Venue.
- Pre-requisite training or qualifications.
- Cost of training.
- Estimated cost of travel/accommodation and living expenses and where necessary, justified additional costs to facilitate access.
- Duration of course or training.
- Covering letter from candidate indicating their career goals and how the training selected will enhance their ability to contribute to the field of leprosy, and also why they should be considered for the award.
- A letter of recommendation from their current employer, indicating their willingness to release the candidate if they are selected for the award and agree to keep the job open for the candidate and stipulate any bond arrangements they would like to make.
- A reference from another employer or tutor.
- A letter of invitation or acceptance from the host of the training or course.

Prospective candidates for the award should apply in writing to:

Doug Soutar

LEPRA

Fairfax House

Causton Road

Colchester CO1 1PU, UK

e-mail: Doug_Soutar@lepra.org.uk Fax: 01206 762151

5. Timing

Applications with all the above attachments should be sent to LEPRA at least 9 months prior to the commencement of their selected course. Candidates will be notified whether they have been selected for the award at least 6 months in advance.