

## NEWS and NOTES

*This department furnishes information concerning institutions, organizations, and individuals engaged in work on leprosy and other mycobacterial diseases, and makes note of scientific meetings and other matters of interest.*

**Argentina.** *Dermatologists meet in Buenos Aires.* The V Reunión Anual de Dermatólogos Latinoamericanos del Cono Sud occurred 3–6 May 1980 in Buenos Aires. Dr. Juan C. Gatti was President of the Executive Committee and Dr. Jose E. Cardama, Secretary-General. The IV Reunión Leprológica (Hansenológica) del Cono Sud with Dr. Luis M. Baliña as General Coordinator took place on 2 May in Buenos Aires, immediately preceding this meeting. Scientific sessions at the leprosy meeting dealt with the subjects of immunology, genetics, histopathology, pharmacology, visceral leprosy, clinical forms, otorhinolaryngology, epidemiology, experimental leprosy, and rehabilitation and social work in leprosy.—(*Adapted from materials provided by Drs. Cardama, Baliña, and Gatti*)

**Brazil.** *R. D. Azulay receives appointment.* In May 1979, Dr. Rubem David Azulay was appointed as Professor and Head of the Chair of Dermatology of the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, succeeding Dr. Francisco Eduardo Rabello.

Dr. Azulay's outstanding past activities in teaching and research have been vital in a country where leprosy is endemic and where the collaboration of all physicians is essential to control the disease. This new appointment will enable Dr. Azulay to continue his significant work in dermatology and leprology.—(*Adapted from materials provided by Dr. L. M. Bechelli*)

*Details of Brazilian meetings announced.* The I Congress of the College of Hansenology of Endemic Countries and the III Brazilian Congress of Hansenology will take place from 12–15 November 1980 in Rio de Janeiro. Sessions will include clinical aspects, epidemiology, therapeutics, experimental hanseniasis, immunology, prophylaxis, bacteriology, and rehabilitation.

Registration forms are currently available and may be obtained by writing FOCO—Feiras Exposições e Congressos Ltda., Av. Rio Branco, 143-18° andar, 20040—Rio de Janeiro—RJ, Brasil.—(*Adapted from registration form and correspondence*)

**Ethiopia.** *AHRI Research Digest published.* The Armauer Hansen Research Institute has prepared a "Festschrift" reviewing the first ten years of leprosy research at AHRI and giving projections for the future. It contains nine original articles, several of the presentations given at the 10th Anniversary Program held on 12 March 1980 at AHRI, and abstracts of all papers published by researchers at AHRI during these ten years. Orders for this publication may be sent directly to the Armauer Hansen Research Institute, P.O. Box 1005, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The price of the publication is US\$5.00; please add US\$5.00 for airmail postage, if desired.\*—(*Adapted from information provided by Dr. Gerald L. Stoner*)

**Germany.** *Rehabilitation International announces available publications.* The 1 November 1979 listing includes 30 titles in English, German, and Swedish, dealing with topics such as housing, psychiatric rehabilitation, mental retardation, dental care, and automotive passenger assistance techniques for disabled and handicapped persons. The full listing of offerings is available from Rehabilitation International Information Service, % Stiftung Rehabilitation, P. O. B. 101409, D-6900 Heidelberg, F.R.G. The Service does not have any of these publications in stock; copies should be ordered directly from the address pro-

\* Editor's Note: See the review of this book on p. 218.—RCH

vided with each title.—(*Adapted from Rehabilitation International Information Service listing*)

**India.** *Seven year study results on BCG released.* The study, jointly supported by the U.S. government and WHO, examined the effectiveness of the French and Danish strains of BCG in 360,000 persons in south-eastern India. These two strains were chosen in the belief that they were the most potent ones available, based on laboratory tests on animals, although earlier studies had shown wide variability in the efficacy of BCG, and its use in immunization had been controversial. In this study both strains were found to be ineffective.

Dr. Karl-Ludwig E. Hitz, head of the WHO tuberculosis section, disputes the results of the study and believes that there is "something peculiar" in the way tuberculosis behaves in southeastern India. Other experts doubt the efficacy of BCG, and WHO is planning two scientific meetings at its headquarters in Geneva, the first in April 1980, to determine whether its policies should be changed and whether further studies are needed.

WHO currently estimates that 3.5 million new cases of tuberculosis occur each year and more than 500,000 deaths. Therapy involving antibiotics is available but is costly in most developing countries, and BCG is the only vaccine currently in use against tuberculosis.\*—(*Adapted from Tropical Medicine and Hygiene News* 29 [1980] 11–12)

*Report on Emmaus Referral Hospital & Leprosy Project.* The report deals with the status of leprosy control activities in Palamaner, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh for the years 1977–1979. Beginning with an account of the history of the Leprosy Relief Work Emmaus—Switzerland, a unit of the Emmaus Swiss Federation, which supports this hospital and project as well as 35 others in India, the report continues with a very full discussion of the general nature of the

Chittoor District. The body of the report consists of a "First Assessment and Evaluation Report" by the Technical Advisory Unit, German Leprosy Relief Association, Leprosy Relief Work Emmaus—Switzerland, dealing with such topics as project organization, field organization, modes of case detection, cumulative regularity of treatment, surveys and case detection, prevalence rates, and incidence of lepromatous cases, deformities, and single lesions in new detections. Very complete statistical data are provided in each section of the "Assessment."—(*Adapted from Emmaus Referral Hospital & Leprosy Project: Palamaner, Chittoor Dist. (A.P.) India. Madras: Regional Secretariat for India, German Leprosy Relief Association, Leprosy Relief Work Emmaus—Switzerland, 1979*)

*Report on GLRA leprosy control work in Bombay.* The Deutsches Aussatzen-Hilfswerk e.V. (German Leprosy Relief Association) has issued a report on the status of its leprosy control program in Greater Bombay as of November 1979. Beginning with very full accounts of the history of the GLRA and of the city of Bombay, the work next reviews the history of leprosy work in Bombay, particularly the pioneering activities of the Acworth Leprosy Hospital. The next section deals with the services and case loads of the 4 projects sponsored by GLRA in Bombay, each of which operates in different parts of the city: the Virmala Dermatological Centre, the Maharashtra Lokahitha Seva Mandal, the Lok Seva Sangam, and the Bombay Leprosy Project. The final section consists of a "First Assessment and Evaluation Report," treating subjects such as field organization, modes of case detection, treatment, clinical status of registered cases, bacteriological status of lepromatous cases, analysis of new cases, incidence of deformities, inpatient treatment care, health education, and rehabilitation. Very complete statistical data are provided in each section of the "Assessment."—(*Adapted from German Leprosy Relief Association: Leprosy Control Work in Greater Bombay, India. Madras: German Leprosy Relief Association, Regional Secretariat for India, 1979*)

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\* Editor's Note: An abstract of this study appears on p. 242 of this issue.—RCH

*Report of WHO sponsored workshop at JIPMER.\** The "WHO sponsored Workshop on Epidemiology, Control, Health Education, and Statistics in Leprosy" was conducted at the Jawaharal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Pondicherry, from the 7th to the 20th of November 1979.

Seventeen participants from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnatska, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu and from the Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry took part in the workshop. Fourteen teachers from JIPMER, Dr. S. K. Noordeen, Deputy Director (Epid.), Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute, Chingleput, and Dr. S. Arunthathi, Medical Officer, Schieffelin Leprosy Research Sanitarium, Karigiri, formed the faculty for the workshop. All the participants acted as rapporteurs by rotation for the various sessions.

The main features of the workshop were group work on involvement and improvement of knowledge and working skills. The participants took stock of the recent developments in various fields of the disease and discussed the problems which faced them so as to be able to play a more significant role in their future activities.—(Adapted from the introduction to the workshop report by S. Lal)

*XI Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists meets in Madras.* The Conference, which was held from 5 to 8 April 1979, was inaugurated by His Excellency, Shri Prabhudas Patwari, Governor of Tamil Nadu, and the scientific sessions were inaugurated by Dr. B. Sankaran, Director-General of the Health Services. Dr. A. J. Selvapandian, President of the Indian Association of Leprologists, delivered the presidential address, emphasizing the need to improve the leprosy curriculum in undergraduate medical education. Dr. T. F. Davey delivered the guest lecture in which he discussed recent developments in the understanding of the transmission of leprosy.

\* Editor's Note: The 37 page report on the workshop is a well-written, concise, and extremely useful review of the epidemiology and control of leprosy.—RCH

A total of 269 delegates from India and 5 foreign countries attended, and 84 papers were presented and fully discussed during 6 scientific sessions. Session I, dealing with Clinical Aspects of Leprosy, consisted of 11 papers and was chaired by Dr. K. Ramanujam and co-chaired by Dr. (Miss) C. Vellut. Session II, Immunological Aspects of Leprosy, also consisted of 11 papers and was chaired by Dr. B. R. Chatterjee and co-chaired by Dr. K. Saha. Session III, which dealt with Epidemiology and Control of Leprosy, included 17 papers and was chaired by Dr. S. K. Noordeen and co-chaired by Dr. P. Kapoor. Session IV, concerning Modern Trends in the Treatment of Leprosy, also included 17 papers and was chaired by Dr. K. V. Thiruvengadam and co-chaired by Dr. C. G. S. Iyer. Session V, Laboratory Aspects of Leprosy, consisted of 14 papers and was chaired by Dr. C. K. Job and co-chaired by Dr. K. V. Desikan. Session VI, dealing with Deformities in Leprosy, also consisted of 14 papers and was chaired by Dr. E. P. Fritschi and co-chaired by Dr. H. Srinivasan.

A full summary of the Proceedings of the Scientific Sessions, prepared by Dr. H. Srinivasan, including both an abstract of each paper presented and a synopsis of the discussion following the paper's presentation, appears in *Lepr. India* **51** (1979) 544–606.—G. Gordon

*Eighth Workshop on Leprosy held by The Foundation for Medical Research.* The workshop, held in Bombay on 21 November 1979, included 3 presentations on macrophage function in leprosy, isolation and characterization of acid-fast bacilli from lepromatous nodules, and specific colorimetric assay for dapsone—a quantitative precipitation method. Full discussion among the participants followed each of these presentations.—(Adapted from materials provided by Dr. N. H. Antia)

**Japan.** *Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation contributes US\$3.5 million to WHO.* Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa, President of the Foundation, presented the gift to WHO's Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion for 1979 in Tokyo on 27 September 1979 to Dr. S. Flache, Assistant Director-General of WHO.

In agreement with Mr. Sasakawa's wishes, US\$1.2 million will be used in the WHO Western Pacific Region in support of regional programs for prevention and control of communicable diseases (including leprosy and tuberculosis), health services development and research, drug policies and management, health manpower development, mental health, and management of research. US\$2.3 million will be allocated to WHO's global programs in leprosy control, immunization, tropical diseases research and training, and blindness prevention. Since 1975, the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation has contributed over US \$12 million to WHO, including US\$3.3 million in 1978.—(*Adapted from WHO Chron.* 33 [1979] 472)

*W. F. Kirchheimer speaks.* On invitation of the Japanese Leprosy Association, Dr. Waldemar F. Kirchheimer, Chief, Laboratory Research Branch, USPHS Hospital, Carville, delivered the guest lecture, "Advances in Biomedical Leprosy Research" at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Association in Hiroshima under the auspices of the Department of Bacteriology, Hiroshima University, School of Medicine, on 28 March 1980.

Crediting the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program, established in 1965, for stimulating biomedical leprosy research in subsequent years, Dr. Kirchheimer dealt with advances that have occurred in identification of the leprosy bacillus, determination of its viability, screening for efficacy of anti-leprosy drugs and drug sensitivity of bacilli from patients, occurrence of subclinical infections in patient contacts, use of the nine-banded armadillo to provide leprosy bacilli for research, and the potential value of the nine-banded armadillo in solving fundamental questions such as the cellular basis of resistance and susceptibility as well as the possibility that the latter rests on a genetically determined defect. Following the lecture, an audiovisual tape, "Armadillo Research at Carville—Update" was shown.

At the conclusion of the session Dr. Kirchheimer was presented with a plaque by Dr. Yoshiyasu Matsuo, President of the Japanese Leprosy Association, in recogni-

tion of his outstanding contributions to biomedical leprosy research.—G. Gordon

**Martinique and Guadeloupe.** The IV Congrès de Léprologie, under the sponsorship of the Association des Léprologues de Langue Française and the Société Médicale des Antilles et de la Guyane Françaises, was held in Fort de France and Pointe-à-Pitre from 12 to 16 November 1979. More than 120 participants from 12 countries attended.

A total of 64 papers was given during the main sessions in epidemiology, immunology, experimental leprosy, bacteriology, clinical aspects, therapy, and surgery. Additionally, workshops on clinical diagnosis, differential diagnosis, therapy, and treatment of neuritis were held.

At the end of the Congress, Dr. A. Basset was elected President of the Association des Léprologues de Langue Française, succeeding Dr. F. P. Merklen. It was further decided to hold the V Congrès de Léprologie in Morocco in 1981.—(*Adapted from information provided by Dr. L. M. Bechelli*)

**Paraguay.** *Report on armadillo studies.* Under joint sponsorship of WHO and the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Waldemar F. Kirchheimer, Chief, Laboratory Research Branch, USPHS Hospital, Carville, served as a consultant to the Leprosy Department of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in Asunción from 17 November to 18 December 1979 to assess the capabilities of the Department of Leprosy to produce leprosy tissues in local armadillos for supply to WHO's IMMLEP project. During his stay Dr. Kirchheimer and Dr. Seiji Innami, Principal Investigator of the project, infected Paraguayan nine-banded armadillos with leprosy bacilli from experimentally infected Carville armadillos. A follow-up study on this work is planned for September 1980.—G. Gordon

**Spain.** *Two leprosy courses to be held at Fontilles.* El XVI curso internacional de leprología para médicos, organizado por el Sanatorio San Francisco de Borja de Fontilles y patrocinado por la Orden de Malta, con la colaboración de la Escuela Profesional de Dermatología de la Univer-

sidad de Valencia, Ministerio de Sanidad y Seguridad Social y Profesores de Dermatología de las Facultades de Medicina tendrá lugar en el Sanatorio de Fontilles desde el 26 de septiembre al 4 de octubre de 1980, dirigido por el Dr. J. Terencio de la Aguas, Director Médico del Sanatorio. El XXIII curso para misioneros y auxiliares sanitarios tendrá lugar desde el 13 octubre al 1 de noviembre de 1980.

Los aspirantes a este Curso deberán dirigir sus instancias al Comité Ejecutivo Internacional. 3 Place Claparede, GINEBRA (Suiza) antes del 31 de Julio de 1980 y al mismo tiempo al Sanatorio de San Francisco de Borja, Fontilles (Alicante, España). Para el XVI curso se dará preferencia a los que trabajen en Centros Leprológicos, Universidades, o pertenezcan al Cuerpo de Dermatólogos Oficiales del Estado. Para el XXIII curso se dará preferencia a los que trabajan en misiones. En segundo lugar a los que tengan el proyecto inmediato de trabajar en misiones. En sugundo lugar a los que tengan el proyecto inmediato ellas y en centros leproológicos, siendo necesario presentar certificación del superior en este sentido.

La asistencia a este Curso es gratuita ya que los gastos de organización son costeados por la Orden de Malta. Los cursillistas deberán permanecer en régimen de internado en el Sanatorio de San Francisco de Borja.

La Orden del Malta concederá también varias becas para las pensiones de estancia en el Sanatorio, a los aspirantes que aleguen mejores méritos. Los médicos que no la obtuvieren deberán abonar 20.000 pesetas a la administración del Sanatorio por su estancia durante todo el Curso. Los misioneros y auxiliares sanitarios deberán también abonar 20.000 pesetas.—(Adapted from course brochures)

**Switzerland.** *Availability of histamine chlorhydrate or phosphate (1:1000) for testing in suspected leprosy.* The histamine test is generally recognized to be of help in the diagnosis of early lesions in leprosy, particularly for indeterminate leprosy in light skins. The test is of limited value in dark skins. In hypochromic macules or in areas with anesthesia, the triple response of

Lewis is incomplete as there is no reflex or secondary erythema when leprosy is the cause.

In most leprosy training courses and subsequently in many control programs, this test is being ignored simply because of the unavailability of ready-to-use histamine solution. Hence outside South America, the test has not really been properly evaluated.

To facilitate the availability of histamine for the testing of skin lesions, a service agreement has been concluded between WHO and the Director of the Institute of Leprology, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro, for the free supply of histamine solution 1:1000. The sterile preparation is contained in breakable glass rods and stored in labelled plastic containers. Investigators and program managers who would like to obtain limited supplies of histamine (ready to use) may write to the Leprosy Unit, WHO, Geneva, requesting the relevant form for histamine.—(Prepared by Dr. Lygia M. Cezar de Andrade, Director of the Institute of Leprology, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Rio de Janeiro; Dr. H. Sansarricq, Chief Medical Officer; Dr. J. Walter, Medical Officer; Leprosy Unit, Division of Communicable Diseases, WHO, Geneva)

**United Kingdom** *LEPRA announces details of 1980 Prize Essay Competition.* Sponsored annually since 1972, the British Leprosy Relief Association offers prize money of £100 for essays on various aspects of the leprosy problem. The two topics for this year's competition are "The rise and fall of leprosy in Europe" and "BCG vaccination in tuberculosis and leprosy." The competition is open to any student registered at a university with a medical faculty in the United Kingdom. Entry requires neither clinical experience nor original work, and essays are welcome from students in the junior years of medical study.

Candidates will be expected to summarize published work on one of the announced topics and review it critically, recording their own comments in the form of a discussion or summary. Constructive comment and critical appraisal rather than mere reproduction of published material are expected.

Entries should be typed on A4 paper,

double-spaced with ample margins, and not exceed 10,000 words although length itself is of no importance, previous prize winning essays having been as few as 3000 words long. References should be included as in scientific articles.

The closing date is 31 December 1980. Entries should be submitted to Dr. A. Colin McDougall, Briscoe 1 Ward, The Slade Hospital, Headington, Oxford OX3 7JH and must include the candidate's full name, home address, college (if relevant), university, and year of study.

A prize of up to £100 will be awarded at the sole discretion of the judges, either to one candidate or divided among several. If entries are not of sufficient merit, no prize will be awarded, but if several are of high standard, LEpra may extend the prize money accordingly.—(*Adapted from prize competition circular*)

**U.S.A.** *Dr. Trautman promoted.* Dr. John R. Trautman, Director of the USPHS Hospital, Carville, was promoted to the rank of Assistant Surgeon General (Rear Admiral) in the U.S. Public Health Service, effective 2 April 1980. This represents the first time in the history of the Public Health Service that an Assistant Surgeon General has headed a Public Health Service hospital.



Dr. Trautman has been associated with the Public Health Service since 1954 and has been the Director of the USPHS Hospital, Carville, since 1968. He has served as a consultant on leprosy problems in Okinawa, the Canal Zone, Tunisia, and El Salvador and has received numerous professional honors, including the Meritorious Service Medal from the U.S. Public Health Service and the Order of Merit, Military and Hospitalier Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem, admitted with the rank of Commander.—G. Gordon