

## 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.*

**Germany.** *Dr. Ruth Pfau honored.* The Distinguished Service Cross with Star was presented to Dr. Ruth Pfau by the Federal President Richard von Weizsacker on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany. Dr. Pfau, now working in Pakistan, is a sister of the Congregation Töchter vom Herzen Mariä. Beginning with the care of about 700 patients in the Karachi area in 1960, Dr. Pfau is now the consultant adviser to the Ministry of Health. She has established a comprehensive leprosy control program covering the entire country, treating about 17,000 patients. Congratulations to Dr. Pfau on this well-deserved honor from her country.

**India.** *Citation for the award of Dr. K. G. Sahu Gold Medal to Dr. K. V. Desikan.* Dr. K. V. Desikan, President of the Indian Leprosy Association and currently Director of the Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy, Agra, India, has been in the field of leprosy for the past three and a half decades. His work has been recognized both in India and abroad. Dr. Desikan, after graduation from Bangalore, has been engaged in leprosy work from 1951. He began antileprosy work in the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation, where the SET method of leprosy control work commenced. From 1962 to 1967, he worked in the Christian Medical College & Hospital, Vellore, where he obtained the M.D. degree in pathology. His paper on autopsies published in the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY has perhaps one of the highest citation indexes of any paper published in leprosy. From 1967 to 1976, he worked in the pathology department of the Central Leprosy Training & Research Institute, Chingleput. Since 1976, he has been heading the National Institute for Leprosy Research, namely, Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy, Agra.

Dr. Desikan has had extensive training in

epidemiological and clinical aspects in the early days in Acworth Leprosy Hospital and, subsequently, in the National Institute for Medical Research, London, and the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.A. He has visited and worked in various centers, such as the National Institute for Leprosy Research, Tokyo; Kyoto University Medical School, Kyoto, Japan; Medical Research Council, London; Leprosy Unit, Sungei Buloh, Malaysia; and St. Mary's Hospital Medical School Department of Anatomy, London. He is a member of several professional bodies, has participated in several conferences, and has a large number of papers to his credit.

We congratulate Dr. Desikan on this well-deserved award.

*Orientation in Leprosy for Doctors published by HKNS.* Written by Dr. and Mrs. Thangaraj and Dr. K. C. Das, this 22 page paperback booklet is designed to give a short orientation to all medical doctors and to ensure their involvement in the National Leprosy Eradication Campaign. It covers all of the basic aspects of leprosy, including diagnosis, classification, management of reactions, and the use of MDT, and should be of great value to Indian medical students and other health workers. With some modification, it could be used in other countries where the need for such a text on leprosy for doctors and medical students has yet to be filled. The booklet is published by Hind Kusht Nivaran Sangh, 1 Red Cross Road, New Delhi 110001, India.

*Role of Phenolic Glycolipid in Leprosy* (a mini-symposium held at Acworth Leprosy Hospital Society for Research, Rehabilitation and Education in Leprosy on 31 October 1985). In his opening address, Dr. P. R. Mahadevan outlined the basic chemical characterization of the cell wall and surface

structures of mycobacteria with special reference to the phenolic glycolipid (PGL) isolated from *Mycobacterium leprae*. The results obtained so far in the studies using sera from various types of leprosy patients and normal individuals had shown that the *M. leprae*-specific PGL was present significantly in bacillary positive lepromatous leprosy patients. This was possible by ELISA using the monoclonal antibody for PGL or purified PGL and patient sera. Dr. Mahadevan emphasized the use of this type of assay for the presence of PGL in patients along with skin reaction with lepromin as an early diagnostic system. However, the built-in drawback in an assay of this type of monitoring for *M. leprae* antigens will be that it can identify only exposure to *M. leprae* antigens and not susceptibility to leprosy. Thus, supplementary tests are needed.

Dr. Nalini Vemuri explained how the presence of *M. leprae*-specific PGL was purified and characterized from infected human nodules. So far, PGL has been prepared only from infected armadillo tissues. The entire purification procedure, including characterization of the product by I.R., U.V., and N.M.R., and sugar analysis, showed that PGL-I of human *M. leprae* is exactly the same as that of *M. leprae* derived from infected armadillo tissues. It also had positive interaction with the monoclonal antibody for PGL-I.

Mrs. S. R. Dandekar presented the results that she and her colleagues obtained on serodiagnosis of leprosy with PGL-I using ELISA. The overall seropositivity for PGL-I was 48.9% in the entire group of 92 patients studied and 6.5% in household contacts. Seropositivity for PGL decreased after the treatment. Among the various types of leprosy, the positivity to PGL was LL > BL > BB > BT > TT.—(From materials received from S. S. Naik)

**Poland.** *Dr. Wanda Blenska honored.* The Medical Academy of the University of Poznan recently conferred on Dr. Wanda Blenska of the Buluba Leprosy Centre in Uganda the newly endowed Karl Marcinkowski Medal. Since 1950, Dr. Blenska has worked in the Uganda center. Buluba, founded in 1934 by sisters of the Irish Order of St. Francis, has become famous in Uganda as a teaching and training center, much of it sup-

ported by the German Leprosy Relief Association. Congratulations to Dr. Blenska on this honor which recognizes her long service and special contributions toward leprosy control in Uganda.

**Spain.** *XXIX Curso—el Sanatorio de Fontilles.* XXIX Curso Internacional de Leprologia para Misioneros y Auxiliares Sanitarios organizado por el Sanatorio San Francisco de Borja de Fontilles y Patrocinado por la Soberana Orden Militar de Malta con la colaboracion de la Escuela Profesional de Dermatologia de la Universidad de Valencia Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo y Profesores de Dermatologia de las Facultades de Medicina. El XXIX Curso tendrá lugar en la Sanatorio de Fontilles desde el día 6 al 25 de Octubre de 1986. Dirigido por el Dr. J. Terencio de las Aguas Director Médico del Sanatorio.

**U.K.** *Ciba Foundation Symposium Bursary Scheme 1986.* The Ciba Foundation Symposium Bursary Scheme enables young scientists to attend Ciba Foundation Symposia and to spend four weeks in the laboratory of one of the Symposium participants, with travel, room and board expenses paid. Applicants must be between 25–35 years old (on 14 March 1986) and actively engaged in research on topics covered by the Symposium of their choice. For details contact: Ms. S. Venables, The Ciba Foundation, 41 Portland Place, London W1N 4BN, England.

**U.S.A.** *II Congress of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries.* The II Congress of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries, sponsored by the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and hosted by the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center [GWLHDC], Carville, Louisiana, was held in Baton Rouge and Carville 3–5 December 1985. Dr. Robert C. Hastings, Chief, Laboratory Research Branch, GWLHDC, was President of the II Congress, and Dr. Rubem David Azulay, Rio de Janeiro, is President of the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries. Attendance at the Congress consisted of 161 physicians and scientists from 24 countries, and a total of 85 presentations were given in the eight specialty sessions.

*Treatment clinics for Hansen's disease.* A revised list of federally funded and private sector facilities where Hansen's disease patients can obtain care in the U.S. is given below.

| Area  | Facility   | Address   | Physician/Nurse                                 | Appointment                              |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| National center                             |  |   |   |  |
| Carville                                    | Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center               | River Road<br>Carville, LA 70721  | Robert R. Jacobson, MD<br>Bruce H. Clements, MD | 800-642-2477<br>Ext. 289<br>Dr. Clements |
| Regional HD centers                         |  |   |   |  |
| Boston                                      | Brighton Marine Public Health Center                 | 77 Warren Street<br>Brighton, MA 02135                                  | Donald Lucas, MD<br>Hazel Foster, PHN           | 617-782-3400<br>Dr. Lucas                |
| Chicago                                     | University of Illinois College of Medicine           | 840 S. Wood Street<br>Chicago, IL 60612                                 | Sophie Worobec, MD<br>Arlene Slajchert, PHN     | 312-996-0193                             |
| Hawaii                                      | State of Hawaii Dept. of Health                      | 3650 Maunalei Ave.<br>Honolulu, HI 96816                                | Ron Metler, MD<br>Betty Nakaji, PHN             | 808-735-2473                             |
| Los Angeles                                 | L.A. County U.S.C. Medical Center, Outpatient Clinic | Dept. of Health Services<br>1175 North Cummings<br>Los Angeles CA 90033 | Thomas Rea, MD<br>Helen Baca-Mora, PHN          | 213-226-5261                             |
| Miami                                       | University of Miami School of Medicine               | Dept. of Dermatology<br>1611 N.W. 12th Ave.<br>Miami, FL 33136          | Francisco Ramos-Caro, MD<br>Anita McSharry, PHN | 305-547-5958<br>Ms. Cabrera              |
| New York                                    | Bayley Seton Hospital                                | Bay & Vanderbilt Sts.<br>Staten Island, NY 10304                        | William Levis, MD<br>Louise Yzquierdo, PHN      | 718-390-5757                             |
| Puerto Rico                                 | University of Puerto Rico Medical School             | Dept. of Dermatology<br>G.P.O. Box 5067<br>San Juan, PR 00936           | Pablo Almodovar, MD<br>Judith Figueroa, PHN     | 809-765-7950                             |
| San Diego                                   | N. San Diego Health Center                           | 2440 Grand Ave.<br>San Diego, CA 92109                                  | Antonio Lopez, MD<br>Carol Judkins, PHN         | 619-274-1223<br>Ms. Judkins              |
| San Francisco                               | Seton Medical Center                                 | 1900 Sullivan Avenue<br>Daly City, CA 94015                             | Robert Gelber, MD<br>Vivien Demarest, PHN       | 415-991-6652<br>Mr. Gibson               |
| Seattle                                     | Pacific Medical Center                               | 1200 12th Avenue S.<br>Seattle, WA 98144                                | James P. Harnisch, MD<br>Helen Miske, PHN       | 206-326-4142                             |
| Texas                                       | Texas Dept. of Health                                | 1100 West 49th<br>Austin, TX 78756                                      | Luis Escobedo, MD<br>Isabel Vitek, PHN          | 512-458-7455                             |
| Other public and private sources of HD care |  |   |   |  |
| Chicago                                     | Division of Dermatology, Cook County Hospital        | 1835 W. Harrison St.<br>Chicago, IL 60612                               | Sidney Barsky, MD                               | 312-633-6000                             |
| New York                                    | Bellvue Hosp. Dept. of Derm. Tropical Med/HD Clinic  | First Ave. & 28th St.<br>New York, NY 10016                             | Miguel Sanchez, MD                              | 212-340-5245                             |
| Phoenix                                     | Maricopa County Health Dept.                         | 1825/1845 E. Roosevelt<br>Phoenix, AZ 85006                             | Douglas Campos-Outcalt, MD<br>Jan Kenney, PHN   | 602-258-6381                             |
| Portland                                    | HD Clinic Dept. of Derm. OR Health Sciences Unit     | 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Dr.<br>Park Road<br>Portland, OR 97201            | Frank Parker, MD<br>or<br>Wm. Marriott, MD      | 503-225-8597                             |
| Tampa                                       | University of South Florida Medical Center           | 12901 N. 30th St.<br>Tampa, FL 33612                                    | Blenvenido Yangco, MD                           | 813-974-4096                             |

On the second day of the Congress, participants were entertained by The Kids on the Block, Inc. The Kids on the Block is an educational company that develops and markets programs on various disabilities, medical conditions, and social issues. Created by Barbara Aiello, special educator and writer, The Kids on the Block teach, with the aid of puppets, that disabled people are competent, lively, and responsive. Their latest character is that of a child with Hansen's disease, and was presented for the first time to Congress participants.

The founding of the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries five years ago and the realization of its Second Congress are continuing efforts of the college to accomplish its major goals: 1) Integration of Hansen's disease into the mainstream of modern medicine. 2) The study of and elimination of all cultural barriers which are creating psychosocial problems and hindering preventive efforts. 3) Research in all scientific fields of the disease.—(Adapted from The Star)

*Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy 1987.* Dr. Victor George Heiser, a physician who devoted his life to the study and treatment of tropical diseases, provided in his will a multimillion dollar bequest for basic biomedical research on leprosy. The following awards were established and are available.

1) Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. To support young biomedical scientists in beginning postdoctoral training for leprosy research. Applicants should have M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent. While there is no age limit, candidates should be at an early stage of postdoctoral research training. There are no citizenship requirements. Generally, postdoctoral training should be planned in an institution other than that in which the applicant obtained the doctorate. Candidates should be interested in obtaining research training directly related to leprosy study.

Initial awards are for one year, renewable for a second year.

2) Research Grants. To provide limited support to laboratories involved in leprosy research training. Applicants should be senior investigators who are experienced in leprosy research and associated with a laboratory providing training opportunities in this field. Grants may be sought for proposals which are both of high scientific caliber and clearly related to leprosy. Start-up funds may be requested for new projects or facilities which show promise of receiving support from other sources within one year and of contributing to leprosy research. Grants are limited in duration to one year.

3) Visiting Research Awards. To promote collaborative research in studies of leprosy and to encourage clinical experience with leprosy by facilitating access to centers in which clinical manifestations of the disease are being correlated with laboratory findings. Because of the high cost of travel, awards in this category will be made only under special circumstances. Candidates should be established investigators in leprosy who wish to carry out specific research objectives in a distant or foreign institution. There are no citizenship requirements. Up to six consecutive months of support for travel and subsistence costs will be awarded successful candidates.

In considering research on leprosy, the fields selected as among the most relevant for the study of this disease are: cultivation of *Mycobacterium leprae* (Hansen's bacilli), immunology of mycobacterial infection, experimental transmission of leprosy, and pharmacology of antileprosy drugs.

Deadline for all applications is 1 February 1987. All applications must be in English (one original and four copies). There are no application forms. For further information write: Mrs. Barbara M. Hugonnet, Director, Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy, 450 East 63rd Street, New York, New York 10021, U.S.A.—(Adapted from Heiser Program brochure)