

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.

India. *Dr. Ganapati's leprosy studies recognized.* Dr. R. Ganapati, Director of the Bombay Leprosy Project, is the recipient of the JALMA Trust Fund Oration Award for 1986 in recognition of his studies on urban leprosy. This prize is awarded by the Indian Council of Medical Research to "an eminent scientist for outstanding work carried out in the field of leprosy. The criterion for award of the prize is the significance and value of addition to existing knowledge contributed by a worker on any aspect of leprosy in which he/she has been actively engaged over a number of years and has shown sustained activity in research."

Dr. Ganapati also received the Garware Medical Science Oration Award for 1986. At a function in the Hotel President arranged by the Medical Welfare Trust on 15 March 1987, he delivered the Oration on the subject "Strategies of Leprosy Eradication Through Field Studies in Bombay" in the presence of a specially invited audience.—J. K. Maniar

IAL workshop held. The Indian Association of Leprologists (IAL) held a workshop on Field Laboratory Service 28 February–1 March 1987 at the Grealtes Training Center in Calcutta. The workshop was held in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Government of India, and the Government of West Bengal.

The papers presented in the scientific sessions broadly covered: standardization of smear techniques, grading of bacterial index, morphological index and its importance, importance of cross-checking of smears, smear work load with reference to population and case load, smear taking in the field by a paramedial worker vis-à-vis a smear technician, and training needs with particular reference to standardization of training in learning field laboratory work. The second scientific session dealt with field

testing of drug compliance, role of histological examinations in National Leprosy Eradication Programme, animal models, procurement and supply of stores and equipment, and laboratory forms—some suggestions for improvement, etc.

The scientific sessions were followed by open-house discussions which covered topics such as minimum essential requirements for field laboratory services, field investigations with particular reference to Multi Drug Therapy District, upgrading of laboratory facilities in the regional training centers, and assessment of requirements of manpower and equipment to maintain optimum quality of work.

Officers of the IAL include: Dr. R. H. Thangaraj, President; Drs. C. J. G. Chacko and D. S. Chaudhury, Vice Presidents; Dr. B. K. Girdhar, Honorary Secretary; and Dr. S. B. G. Roy Chaudhury, Treasurer.

New Director-General of Indian Council of Medical Research. On 8 September 1986, Professor A. S. Paintal, F. R. S., the eminent physiologist of India, became Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Prof. Paintal succeeds Prof. V. Ramalingaswami, F.R.S., who completed over 7 years of distinguished service as the ICMR's Director-General.—Indian Journal of Medical Research

Mexico. *Centro Pascua celebrates 50th anniversary.* On 2 January 1987, the Centro Dermatologico "Dr. Ladislao de la Pascua" celebrated 50 years of uninterrupted work. The occasion was celebrated on 19–21 February with a three-day meeting dealing with the contributions of the Centro Pascua to dermatology and leprosy. Our congratulations to the Centro Pascua and best wishes for another 50 years of service.—(From materials received from Dra. Obdulia Rodriguez, Directora)

Nepal. *1985–1986 Annual Report—National Leprosy Project.* The 1985–1986 Annual Report of the Joint Programme of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the International Nepal Fellowship/German Leprosy Relief Association in the West, Mid-West and Far West Regions of Nepal (a 37-page booklet edited by Herbert Bedenbender, the programme coordinator) covers the 11th year of the Leprosy Control Project.

In the last year, the control area was extended by one district, bringing the total to 27 districts. Case-holding was provided for 11,129 patients through 236 treatment units of the Basic Health Service and 7 referral centers. Regularity increased to 77% from last year's 75%. Multidrug therapy (MDT) was available in all referral centers and 25 of the 27 districts. Of all patients registered for treatment, 38% were on MDT. During the year, 1070 patients were released from treatment. The total now on observation is 4094. Thirty-six patients relapsed after release from MDT (total to date = 42). Case-finding is done by a volunteer presentation fostered by health education and quality care of patients. The case-detection rate has continued to decrease. This year it is 0.24%, down from last year's 0.29%. The disabled patient proportion varies widely in different districts from a low of 4% to a high of 61%. The training program continued to train a wide range of personnel. The socioeconomic services continued to assist needy patients in various ways. Ten voluntary agencies provided generously for the work of the program. The main contributors were the German Leprosy Relief Association (DAHW) and its associates. Good progress has been made in the construction of the Jumla Referral Centre.—(Report received from Frank Belcher, Administrative Director)

The Netherlands. *XII International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria.* The Congress will take place in Amsterdam 18–23 September 1988 at the International Congress Centre RAI. The center provides excellent facilities for formal presentation of lectures and posters as well as informal discussion and contacts. It is conveniently located, and Amsterdam's famous canals, museums, and old monuments are within easy reach. The Congress will be held immediately following the XIII International

Leprosy Congress scheduled for The Hague on 11–17 September 1988.

The Philippines. *Leonard Wood Memorial (LWM) Director of Scientific Facility.* The LWM is seeking a resident director for its Cebu field laboratory (22 professional and nonprofessional employees). Responsible for direction of Cebu scientific program, to include basic scientific, epidemiologic and clinical investigative programs. Prior experience in basic and field research in tropical medicine will be taken into account. Responses confidential. Submit resume/curriculum vitae to: Wayne M. Meyers, M.D., Ph.D., Acting Scientific Director, LWM, 11600 Nebel Street—Suite 210, Rockville, Maryland 20852, U.S.A.

U.K. *Robert Cochrane Fund for Leprosy.* The closure of the Leprosy Study Centre, Wimpole Street, London, released money which has been used to establish a fund in memory of the great leprologist, Robert Cochrane. The fund is administered by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. It is to be used to finance three travel fellowships per annum, to a maximum value of £1,200, to enable leprosy workers to travel for practical training in field work, or in research, or to enable experienced leprologists to travel to provide practical clinical training in a developing country.

Further details of the fund and application forms may be obtained from: Honorary Secretaries, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Manson House, 26 Portland Place, London, W1N 4EY, U.K.

U.S.A. *Dates for 1988 and 1989 seminars at Carville.* Dates for the major 1988 and 1989 medical seminars to be held at the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, Louisiana, are:

1988

Management of the Insensitive Foot

January 26–28

October 25–27

Hansen's Disease Seminar

February 23–24

May 24–25

November 15–16

Management of the Insensitive Hand

May 10–12

*International Seminar on
Hansen's Disease*
(in cooperation with
American Leprosy Missions)
April 17–23
Workshop on
Supervision—April 25–29
and
September 25–October 1
Workshop on
Training—October 3–7

1989

Management of the Insensitive Foot
January 24–26
October 24–26

Hansen's Disease Seminar
February 14–15
May 23–24
November 14–15

Management of the Insensitive Hand
May 9–11

*International Seminar on
Hansen's Disease*
(in cooperation with
American Leprosy Missions)
April 9–15
Workshop on
Supervision—April 17–21
and
September 10–16
Workshop on
Training—September 18–22

Pathology Seminar
October 3–4

For details, contact: Director of Education and Training, GWL Hansen's Disease Center, Carville, Louisiana 70721, U.S.A.

The Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy 1988. 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 1 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 1 year and of contributing to leprosy research. Grants are limited in duration to 1 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 6 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 1988. 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)

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 Carville, LA 70721	Robert R. Jacobson, MD Bruce H. Clements, MD	800-642-2477 Ext. 289 Dr. Clements
Regional HD centers				
Boston	Brighton Marine Public Health Center	77 Warren Street Brighton, MA 02135	Donald Lucas, MD Hazel Gadd, PHN	617-782-3400 Ms. Gadd
Chicago	University of Illinois College of Medicine	840 S. Wood Street Chicago, IL 60612	Sophie Worobec, MD Arlene Slajchert, HN	312-996-0193
Hawaii	State of Hawaii Dept. of Health	3650 Maunalei Ave. Honolulu, HI 96816	Richard I. Frankel, MD	808-735-2472
Los Angeles	L.A. County/U.S.C. Medical Center, Outpatient Clinic	Dept. of Health Services 1175 North Cummings Los Angeles, CA 90033	Thomas Rea, MD Helen Baca-Mora, PHN	213-226-5261
Miami	Jackson Memorial Hospital	Trop. Derm. Clinic 1611 NW 12th Ave. Miami, FL 33136	Arthur H. Johnson, MD Anita McSharry, PHN	305-549-6089 305-549-7927 Ms. McSharry
New York	Bayley Seton Hospital	Bay & Vanderbilt Sts. Staten Island, NY 10304	William Levis, MD Winda Toothaker, PHN	718-390-5757
Puerto Rico	University of Puerto Rico Medical School	Dept. of Dermatology G.P.O. Box 5067 San Juan, PR 00936	Pablo Almodovar, MD Judith Figueroa, PHN	809-765-7950
San Diego	N. San Diego Health Center	2440 Grand Ave. San Diego, CA 92109	Antonio Lopez, MD Carol Judkins, PHN	619-274-1223 Ms. Judkins
San Francisco	Seton Medical Center	1900 Sullivan Avenue Daly City, CA 94015	Robert Gelber, MD Vivien Demarest, PHN	415-991-6652 Mr. Gibson
Seattle	Pacific Medical Center	1200 12th Avenue S. Seattle, WA 98144	James P. Harnisch, MD Helen Miske, PHN	206-326-4142
Texas	Texas Dept. of Health	1100 West 49th Austin, TX 78756	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. Chicago, IL 60612	Darryl Bronson, MD	312-633-6000
New York	Bellevue Hospital Dept. of Derm. Tropical Med/HD Clinic	First Ave. & 28th St. New York, NY 10016	Miguel Sanchez, MD	212-561-3180
Phoenix	Maricopa County Health Dept.	1825/1845 E. Roosevelt Phoenix, AZ 85006	Rodney E. Pust, MD Jan Kenney, PHN	602-258-6381
Portland	HD Clinic, Dept. of Derm. OR Health Sci. Unit	3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Dr. Park Road Portland, OR 97201	Frank Parker, MD	503-225-8597
Tampa	University of South Florida Medical Center	12901 N. 30th St. Tampa, FL 33612	Susan Denman, MD Blendenido Yangco, MD	813-974-4096