

PREFACE

These papers represent the contributions to the Tenth Joint Leprosy Research Conference of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program. Since the program's beginning in 1965, U.S.-Japan joint leprosy research conferences have been held annually in locations that alternated between the two countries. This year we asked a number of colleagues from other countries to attend in order to obtain more complete coverage of the international progress in leprosy research. We were not able to provide travel support for the participants from the other countries, with rare exceptions, and we are most gratified that so many were able to accept.

The U.S.-Japan joint leprosy research conferences have consisted principally of 15-minute proffered papers, followed by 15 minutes of discussion. Translation to the other language has usually been carried out simultaneously. Abstracts of the presentations were then published in the *JOURNAL*. Last year in Kyoto the complete manuscripts were prepared for reproduction and distribution to the participants at the start of the meeting. The presentations were in English and consecutive translation was used during the discussions. We found this approach to increase the precision of communication, so we followed the same practice this year. This year we decided also to try to publish the actual papers for the benefit of those who were unable to attend. Publication, however, caused problems for some of the participants because they had already submitted manuscripts to other journals, or had made commitments for publications, covering some or all of the material they presented. These authors have kindly prepared abstracts for the present publication. Following each paper there was a general discussion, but these have not been reproduced because of the added expense.

This year we tried, as an experiment, the insertion of planned discussions on certain topics of research importance, which were not covered by contributions. For this purpose, several participants were asked to prepare a discussion that would introduce the subject for general discussion. These introductory discussions have also been included in the publication.

Because of the increase in numbers of persons attending and because of the necessary limitation of the meeting to three days, it was necessary to reduce the number of contributions from U.S. leprosy scientists. Thus some proffered contributions had to be refused and contributions with related subject matter had to be combined when possible. We all appreciate the sacrifice that this represented.

When the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program started ten years ago, doubt was expressed that enough leprosy research could be conducted to justify a separate panel. The Joint Delegations wisely decided that the leprosy field was promising and important enough to be supported. With the help of the program, leprosy research expanded at a satisfactory pace, one that did not exceed the opportunities in terms of research leads and did not exceed the availability of scientific talent. The research base (in terms of scientific knowledge and talent) has now broadened impressively and, if support were to be supplied, another expansion in leprosy research could now be safely handled.

The joint leprosy research conferences have been an important part of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Medical Science Program. Obviously the most important part of the program has been the actual research since it has been responsible for the gain in knowledge about leprosy and the gain in ability to attack new problems. Nevertheless, the conferences have played an important role. We hope by this publication to extend the benefit to those who were not able to attend.

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