

## CORRESPONDENCE

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## Pathology at International Congresses

## TO THE EDITOR:

The recent Congress seemed to be a happy and for the most part successful event, thanks to the excellent arrangements, efficient organization and the warm hospitality of our Mexican hosts.

This letter is a plea that at the next International Congress of Leprosy, pathology should be allocated its due share of the program in sessions and workshops. It may be that the present is a time in which human pathology can make its greatest contribution to leprosy research through an interaction with experimental pathology and immunology, though the gap between pathology and immunology has not yet been bridged. It may also be true that clinical and pathological aspects benefit mutually from a joint presentation. Whether or not these were the arguments that prompted the arrangements made at Mexico, the fact remains that pathology is as much as ever a subject in its own right, and if pathologists are to make the journey to attend international meetings, they have as much right as any other group to expect an opportunity to exchange ideas amongst themselves. The inter-relationship between inflammation, granulomatous response, nerve involvement, bacterial load and prognosis is

fundamental to an understanding of leprosy and the problems of its diagnosis and classification. It is a subject of wide interest, not only to pathologists. The nature of the processes involved are not fully elucidated and there is need for dissemination of knowledge already available. At Mexico, much of this went by default.

We hope that on the next occasion this situation will be remedied. If, however, it is still necessary that parts of a subject such as pathology should be distributed between a number of sessions (preferably not concurrent sessions), it would be of some help if the chairmen would observe the published order of papers. Otherwise it is extremely difficult to hear the papers of greatest interest.

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