

## Reply to Dr. Goihman-Yahr's Letter to the Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

In relation to Dr. Goihman-Yahr's comments on my paper on superoxide production ( $O_2^-$ ) in leprosy (Int. J. Lepr. **46** [1978] 337-341), I accept (and regret) that the paragraph he mentions seems to point out discrepancies between my results and his (Clin. Exp. Immunol. **20** [1975] 257-264). My intention was not to show these supposed discrepancies (which are not real) but to simply indicate that lepromatous patients with an active leprosy reaction do not differ from those without it in regard to their leukocytes' ability to generate  $O_2^-$  when appropriately stimulated.

As Dr. Goihman-Yahr mentioned, I did not measure the spontaneous production of  $O_2^-$  by leukocytes of the patients under

study and because of this my results cannot be at variance with his. What is happening to the metabolism (in terms of  $O_2^-$  production) of PMN leukocytes in the patient with reactional leprosy, is a point that has to be studied.

The very important point is, I believe, that PMN leukocytes from lepromatous leprosy, with or without a complicating leprosy reaction, do not seem to be defective in regard to the metabolic activities so far examined.

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