

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.

1999 DAMIEN-DUTTON AWARD



Medical Missionary of Mary Sister Margaret Anne Meyer (r), who operates a clinic in Nigeria which treats people with leprosy, receives the Damien-Dutton Award for 1999 from Howard Crouch, President and Founder of the Damien-Dutton Society, and Bishop John Dunne (l), vicar for the Diocese's Central Vicariate and a member of the Society's Advisory Board. (Photo courtesy of the *Long Island Catholic*)

At their annual board meeting in Bellmore, New York, U.S.A., on 11 November, the Damien-Dutton Society bestowed its 1999 Award to Sister Doctor Margaret Anne Meyer of the Medical Missionaries of Mary. Sister Margaret Anne is a native of Queens, New York, who attended medical school in Dublin, Ireland, after taking her final vows with the Medical Missionaries of Mary. After graduation she went to Uganda in 1966 where she did general medicine for 12 years. Due to political unrest there, Sister Margaret Anne left Uganda and went to

Tanzania where she saw leprosy and tuberculosis patients. Ten years later she was sent to Ogoja, Nigeria, where leprosy remains a problem, and where she has continued her ministry. Sister Margaret Anne said, "I feel I am accepting the award for all the other Sisters." The Medical Missionaries of Mary have been working among the leprosy patients in Ogoja since 1945.

May we all add our congratulations to Sister Margaret Anne and her order on this well-deserved recognition.

Previous Recipients of the Damien-Dutton Award

1953 Stanley Stein, U.S.A.	1976 Dr. Yoshio Yoshie, JAPAN
1954 Rev. Joseph Sweeney, KOREA	1977 Drs. Paul and Margaret Brand, U.S.A.
1955 Sister Marie Suzanne, FRANCE	1978 Dr. Fernando Latapi, MEXICO
1956 Perry Burgess, U.S.A.	1979 Dr. Stanley G. Browne, U.K.
1957 John Farrow, U.S.A.	1980 Robert Watelet, ZAIRE
1958 Sister Hilary Ross, U.S.A.	1981 American Leprosy Mission, U.S.A.
1959 Dr. H. Windsor Wade, PHILIPPINES	1982 Dr. Ma Haide, CHINA
1960 Mgr. Louis Joseph Mendelis, U.S.A.	1983 Murlidhar D. Amte (Baba Amte), INDIA
1961 Dr. Kensuke Mitsuda, JAPAN	1984 Mother Teresa, INDIA
1962 Rev. Pierre de Orgeval, FRANCE	1985 Dr. John H. Hanks, U.S.A.
1963 Eunice Weaver, BRAZIL	1986 Samuel J. Butcher, U.S.A.
1964 Dr. Robert G. Cochrane, U.K.	1987 Dr. W. Felton Ross, U.S.A.
1965 John F. Kennedy, U.S.A. (Posthumous)	1988 Hermann Kober, WEST GERMANY
1966 Peace Corps, U.S.A.	1989 Catholic Medical Mission Board
1967 Dr. Howard A. Rusk, U.S.A.	1990 Dr. Wayne M. Meyers, U.S.A.
1968 Dr. Franz Hemerijckx, BELGIUM	1991 Dr. Ruth K. M. Pfau, GERMANY
1969 Dr. Victor George Heiser, U.S.A.	1992 Anwei Skinsnes-Law, U.S.A.
1970 Dr. Dharmendra, INDIA	1993 Dr. Charles K. Job, INDIA
1971 Dr. Chapman H. Binford, U.S.A.	1994 INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, U.S.A.
1972 Dr. Patricia Smith, VIETNAM	1995 Dr. Joon Lew, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
1973 Dr. Jacinto Convit, VENEZUELA	1996 Richard Marks, U.S.A.
1974 Dr. José N. Rodriguez, PHILIPPINES	1997 Roy E. Pfaltzgraff, U.S.A.
1975 Dr. Oliver Hasselblad, U.S.A.	1998 Jean Margaret Watson, U.K.

Argentina. *Bergel book available.* The Institute of Leprological Research has published a book (in English) of 214 pages by Prof. Meny Bergel entitled: *Metabolic Theory of Leprosy*. The book will be sent free of charge upon request to: Prof. Meny Bergel, Institute of Leprological Research, Paraguay 1365-2, 1057 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

9th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID). The 9th ICID will be held in Buenos Aires on 10–13 April 2000. For details contact: 9th ICID Congress Secretariat, Congresos Internacionales SA, Moreno 584, piso 9, 1091 Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fax: 54-11-4331-0223, 54-11-4334-3811.

India. *Asian Leprosy Congress to be held.* The Asian Leprosy Congress will be held 9–13 November 2000 at the Jaypee

Palace Hotel in Agra, India. The following is from the first announcement brochure.

Message from the Organizing Committee of the Congress

Dear Colleagues,

During the 15th International Leprosy Congress held in Beijing in the month of September 1998 there was a strong desire to hold regional congresses in between the quinquennial international congresses in order to promote more frequent interaction among participants and also to highlight regional issues, problems and achievements. This desire has culminated in the decision to hold the first Asian Leprosy Congress at Agra, India, under the banner of ILA from 9–13 November 2000.

It is only appropriate that the first regional Congress takes place in Asia in view of the tremendous problem of leprosy which the continent still is facing in spite of the enormous progress made in combating the disease over the past 10 to 15 years.

The Congress, apart from discussing technical and research issues, is expected to focus

more on the problems of the common leprosy worker in combating the disease and in helping them to find solutions to such problems. This should also help in better interaction between researchers and developers of technical solutions on the one hand and the ultimate utilizers of such solutions on the other. In order to promote this approach the organizers of the Congress would like to encourage and facilitate participation of as many leprosy workers as possible, particularly those involved in leading and organizing the fight against leprosy in the field.

Even though the Congress is called Asian Leprosy Congress with focus on Asia, it is expected that the Congress would greatly benefit from experiences in other parts of the world and, therefore, would welcome participation from everywhere.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we extend our cordial invitation to all those interested in the fight against leprosy to participate in the Congress, so that together we can progress toward a world without leprosy which is our ultimate goal.

Dr. S. K. Noordeen
Chairperson
Organizing Committee

Dr. C. S. Walter
Secretary
Organizing Committee

General Information

- Date: 9–13 November 2000
- Conference Venue: Jaypee Palace, Agra, has been selected as the venue of the Congress. Set amid a sprawling 25 acres of landscaped gardens, water bodies and walk ways, this hotel is one of a kind. A stone's throw away from the venue is the beautiful world famous Taj Mahal—often described as a “teardrop on the cheek of time”—built by Emperor Shah Jehan in remembrance of his beloved wife.
- Congress Language: English
- Training Sessions: Training sessions on various topics will be held in the evenings at the Congress center and also at the Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy.
- Exhibits: Exhibitions will be arranged for organizations or institutions wishing to display teaching and learning materials, including books, videotapes, compact discs, foot wear, medical supplies and equipment and other items according to interest of the participants.
- Social Events: Special social events/tours will be organized particularly for accompanying persons. There will also be a reception dinner for Congress participants.
- Registration and submission of abstracts of papers: For information on registration, submission of abstracts and other details please contact the Secretariat below and ask for a second announcement.
- Conference Secretariat: Asian Leprosy Congress,
c/o TLM India, CNI Bhavan, 16 Pandit Pant Marg,
New Delhi 110 001, India
Tel: (91-11) 371-6920, 371-8621, 371-8263, 371-8264
Fax: (91-11) 371-0803, e-mail: tlmindia@del2.net.in
Website: www.asianleprosy.com

BLP observes World Disabled Week. The Bombay Leprosy Project (BLP) commemorated World Disabled Week on Sunday, 5 December 1999.

The concept of leprosy control programs observing World Disabled Day (WDD) with as much enthusiasm as they show in celebrating World Leprosy Day (30 January) was generated by BLP in the year 1992 and propagated and practiced regularly since then. What was especially significant in BLP's commemorating WDD this year was that the venue of this function held on 4 December 1999 to commemorate the event was the heart of a Bombay slum where BLP's field research in Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) is in progress.

The guest of honor was none other than an elderly disabled patient who distributed calipers and other aids and appliances to his fellow handicapped in the slum of Bharat Nagar, Bandra (East). It is to be noted that some of the victims of leprosy and other disabling diseases learn computer technology in this slum center. The beneficiaries of physical rehabilitation in this slum of 72,170 citizens amount to 172 of which 18 are leprosy disabled, all of whom were identified by volunteers of the same slum community.

Dr. R. Ganapati, BLP Director, remarked that if our experience about the challenging nature of the training and rehabilitation of all these handicapped in a single slum offers any indication, it is that the resources needed to do reasonable justice to solve the entire problem in this megacity with its sprawling slums would indeed be enormous.

Although the transmission of leprosy is reasonably contained, it is expected that the predicament related to disability of leprosy victims and their rehabilitation in an integrated manner with the general handicapped would prove to be quite a gigantic task.

Mr. A. P. Tripathi, physiotherapist, helped the patients to apply the aids and demonstrated their usage.

Dr. V. V. Pai, BLP Deputy Director, proposed the vote of thanks.—R. Ganapati

schedule for Karigiri shown on pages 82 and 83 from Dr. N. B. B. Reddy, Training Director.

21st Biennial Conference of IAL. The 21st Biennial Conference of the Indian Association of Leprologists (IAL) was held at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research during 17 to 19 September 1999 under the warm hospitality of Prof. Bhushan Kumar, Department of Dermatology, STD and Leprosy. More than 300 delegates both from India and abroad actively participated in the three-day scientific deliberations of the Conference.

On the forenoon of 17 September there was a symposium which dealt with Continuing Priorities in Leprosy. The session started with discussion on Neuritis. The aim of taking this subject was to standardize five important aspects of neuritis. As homework, a group of experts under the chairmanship of N. B. B. Reddy, Karigiri, framed the definitions related to neuritis; the CLT&RI under the guidance of P. K. Oommen identified the minimum information on structure and function of nerve; the Central JALMA Institute for Leprosy has worked on examination protocol with B. K. Girdhar as chair; Bombay Leprosy Project under the guidance of R. Ganapati prepared the recording and reporting system and R. S. Misra and his team finalized the management part. The proposed recommendations were briefly presented to the Conference under the chairmanship of G. Ramu and suggestions from the delegates were incorporated. This was followed by the presentation by Diana Lockwood, the lead speaker on the subject. In her presentation she emphasized the need for a robust testing method for detecting nerve involvement early, understanding the pathogenesis with reference to molecular/immunologic mechanisms, role of steroid and newer immunomodulating agents in management of neuritis. K. V. Desikan spoke on post-MDT monitoring and evaluation and emphasized the need for an inbuilt system of surveillance to detect relapse. He also briefly dealt with the importance of justifying the utility, safety, cost-effectiveness and advantages of FDT. Ebenezer Daniel stressed the need for incorporating comprehensive eye care in

Schieffelin-Karigiri 2000 Course Schedule. We have received the 2000 course

the program. Ben Naafs' talk dealt with all components of reaction in brief with particular reference to neuritis. Indira Nath's presentation emphasized the strong probability of dysregulation of IL-4 as a major factor in bringing the clinical changes in reactions. A. N. Chakraverti's presentation emphasized the homology of animal, human and soil derived CAN bacteria whose genetical heterogeneity may help in evaluating the time and place of the origin of the disease.

The post-lunch session had the CME under the banner "Newer Frontiers" in which N. S. Dharmashaktu highlighted the achievements of the NLEP in India and opined that probably the program is at its peak and ripe for integration. A. M. Dhople spoke on leprosy research beyond the year 2000 AD, while K. Prabhakaran dealt with treatment of patients relapsing after MDT. G. P. Talwar stressed the role of combined chemotherapy and immunotherapy in leprosy elimination. Yasin Quabati from Yemen projected his country's and global achievements through MDT. M. D. Gupte presented the data of a comparative vaccine trial and pointed out the role of vaccines in the control of leprosy. S. K. Satpathy and B. L. Sharma presented the innovative approaches of involving community members undertaken by the DANLEP.

On the morning of 18 September, amid a bounty of glamor, the Conference was inaugurated by N. K. Ganguly, Director-General of the Indian Council of Medical Research. In the inaugural session two small books on leprosy were released and A. R. K. Pillai, Director, Indian Leprosy Foundation, was felicitated. After the inauguration the keynote address "A World Without Leprosy—What It Should Mean" was delivered by Yo Yuasa, and S. K. Noordeen chaired the session.

Dr. Yuasa's lecture dealt with two important issues, namely, the elimination and history of leprosy. He started with the definition of control, elimination, eradication and extinction, the terms which were defined in a meeting organized at Atlanta by the WHO. The theme of the meeting was "Global Disease Elimination and Eradication as Public Health Strategies." This was attended by 400 experts from all over the world who dealt with the above four stages of medical intervention in control of a dis-

ease. Accordingly, the elimination is the zero incidence of a disease in some part of the world at a given time. Dr. Yuasa mentioned the inadequacies in resources and tools for elimination of leprosy in the technical sense and probably there is not much economic advantage to do so. Instead there should be emphasis for a better control of the disease in order to lessen and perhaps to eliminate as much as possible the medical and social problems of the disease. Dealing on the history of leprosy, he pointed out the need to learn from the past stories of human behavior toward the disease and its sufferers which, in a word, was a shameful one. There is need to change the behavior not only to people affected with leprosy but to anyone different in appearance and, indeed, any one we instinctively consider not belonging to us, for whatever reasons. Human beings are superior to the rest of the animals as they possess intellect. At the threshold of the 21st century, modern man must be a better master of his own behavior and see what is inside of an apparently different outside appearance. Although the physical condition of leprosy patients needs our medical care, the real person inside needs our fellowship as an equal partner in life.

The Conference received a total of 147 abstracts of which 59 were selected for free papers and the remaining 88 were posters. The sessions for free papers were on clinical leprosy, therapy of leprosy, immunology, experimental leprosy, microbiology and pathology, and social aspects and epidemiology. These sessions were chaired by V. H. Jadhav, V. K. Sharma, S. G. Dastidar, V. P. Shetty, K. V. Desikan, Mathura Prasad, C. S. Walter, V. V. Dongre and Adarsh Chopra. There were also a couple of awards. The Acworth Research Society Award for the best free paper went to Anup De Sarkar of Chandigarh. The award for the best publication went to Gigi Ebenezer, Karigiri. Viswanath Prasad, Kiran Katoch and P. B. Ranganatha Rao, respectively, got the first, second and third prizes for posters.

The valedictory session was presided over by C. S. Walter, Director for The Leprosy Mission, South-East Asia. In this brief parting session the IAL felicitated The Leprosy Mission on its completion of 125 years of dedicated service. In addition the chairman thanked the organizing committee on

behalf of the delegates and the organizing secretary thanked his team. Judged in terms of scientific content, floor management, the hospitality for the delegates, probably it was a superbly organized meeting. Prof. Bhushan Kumar and the team he led deserve high commendation.

The IAL also had its general body meeting on 18 September and the following have been elected as the Central Council members for the coming term of 2 years. President: Dr. S. K. Noordeen, Vice Presidents: Dr. Bhushan Kumar and Dr. C. R. Revankar, Hon. Secretary: Dr. Sreevatsa and Treasurer: Dr. P. Vijayakumaran.—D. Porichha, Editor, Kusht Vinashak, New Delhi

Sweden. *10th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID) to be held 28–31 May 2000.* Stockholm will be the site of the 10th ECCMID. For details contact: 10th ECCMID 2000, Stockholm Convention Bureau, P.O. Box 6911, SE-102 39 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel: 46-8-736-1500; Fax: 46-8-34-8441, email: eccmid@stocon.se; WWW: <http://www.stocon.se/eccmid>

U.K. *Forum on leprosy up and running.* After many painful experiences, the Internet "Forum on Leprosy" is now up and running. There are various "categories" where those who already are on-board and those thinking about joining, will be free to post articles. When posting articles, look for the "Send New Message" on the top browser bar and hit that button. Then "Choose a category" under which to file your message.

The categories embrace most of the various aspects of leprosy—"Clinical Pathology," "Research," "Immunology," "Leprosy Organizations," "Reconstructive Surgery," "Rehabilitation/Occupational Therapy," "Immunology," "Reactional States," "Diagnosis and Differential Diagnosis," "Bookshops on the Net where leprosy books are available," "Prevention of Disability," "Epidemiology," "Control," "Social and Psychological Aspects," "Chemotherapy/Drugs," "Treatment" etc. There is a de-

partment where everyone may feel free to contribute out of their expertise. If you would like to join, forward your details and e-mail address to: Keith Skillicorn, International Benevolent Services, "Rosehaven," Unit 4, 953 North East Road, Modbury, South Australia 5092, Australia. Your e-mail address will be sent to "DELPHI" (the organization which provides this facility), who will e-mail you the Registration Form. It takes only minutes to fill in the details and e-mail it back to DELPHI. There is no charge.—Lepr. Rev. **70** (1999) 222

Joint meeting on new challenges in tropical medicine and parasitology will be held in September 2000. Oxford 2000: New Challenges in Tropical Medicine and Parasitology will be held 18–22 September 2000 in Oxford. This is a joint meeting of the British Society for Parasitology, the Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. For details Contact: Complete Congress Services, 19 King Edward Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 1AQ, U.K. Tel: 44-0-1625-624091; Fax: 44-0-1625-430544; email: ccs@cmc.co.uk; WWW: <http://www.umds.ac.uk/bspl/>

LEPRA creates new fund in memory of Dick Rees. LEPRA staff, together with over a hundred others from the leprosy world, commemorated the death of Dr. Dick Rees with a memorial service at the National Institute for Medical Research in London in February 1999. Dr. Rees played such a central role in the leprosy field that LEPRA and its Executive Board have decided to honor his memory by instituting a fund which will allow us to support those working in leprosy to undertake useful training in the U.K. or elsewhere. In addition to the support already provided to Medical Elective Students from this country, the fund will enable one person each year to undertake a longer period of study aimed at strengthening their capacity to contribute to antileprosy work in their country. The new fund will be called the Dick Rees Memorial Fund.—Lepr. Rev. **70** (1999) 231

SCHIEFFELIN LEPROSY RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE: KARIGIRI, Vellore District 632 106, Tamil Nadu, India.

COURSE SCHEDULE FOR THE YEAR 2000

Course	Qualifications	Duration	Commencing date	Fees		
				India	SAARC	Others
				Rs.	US\$	US\$
I. COURSES MORE THAN 1 YEAR DURATION						
<i>General</i>						
1) Community Based Rehabilitation Managers	Graduates, with experience preferred	12 mos.	Jul. 01-Jun. 30	12,000	700	800
2) Laboratory Technicians	+ 2 passed, Science graduates preferred	12 mos.	Jul. 01-Jun. 30	10,000	675	750
3) Diploma in Prosthetic & Orthotic Engineering	+ 2 passed, Graduates preferred (with science subjects)	30 mos.	Jul. 01-Jun. 30	15,000	750	1,500
4) Medical Records Technologist	+ 2 passed	15 mos.	Jul. 01-Sep. 30	5,000	250	600
<i>Related to Leprosy</i>						
1) Physiotherapy Technicians	+ 2 or P.U.C. passed (with science subjects)	9 mos.	Jul. 01-Mar. 30	5,000	250	700
II. COURSES LESS THAN 1 YEAR DURATION						
<i>General</i>						
1) Course on Medical Education	(for 4 modules) (for 1 module)	8 wks.	Oct. 10-Nov. 30	*25,000 *7,000	1,000 300	1,500 400
2) Health Education		8 wks.	Apr. 01-May 31	5,000 (*includes board and lodging)	200	400
3) Dermatology for Primary Health Care staff and General Practitioners		2 wks.	Jan. 24			
<i>Related to Leprosy</i>						
1) Medical Officers	Medical personnel engaged in leprosy work	6 wks.	Jan. 24-Mar. 04	2,500	170	750
2) Nonmedical Supervisors	Qualified paramedical workers with a minimum of 5 years experience in the field	2 mos.	Jul. 17-Aug. 26 Apr. 01-May 31	2,500	150	300
3) Smear Technicians	+ 2 passed (with science subjects)	3 mos.	Feb. 01-Apr. 30	1,500	100	350
4) Paramedical workers	+ 2 passed, graduates preferred	4 mos.	Sep. 06-Dec. 04	2,500	150	450
5) Shoemakers	V standard with knowledge of English preferred	6 mos.	Jul. 01-Oct. 31 Jan. 04-Jun. 30	800	55	200
6) Ophthalmic Aspects in Leprosy	Medical personnel	1 wk.	Jul. 01-Dec. 31	1,000	70	200
7) Eye Care in Leprosy	Nonmedical personnel	1 wk.	Mar. 06-Mar. 11 Aug. 28-Sep. 02 Sep. 04-09	1,000	70	200
III. COURSES AFFILIATED TO OTHER COLLEGES						
1) Basics of Physiotherapy in Leprosy	Undergraduates in BPT	1 wk.	By arrangement	1,000	35	
2) Basics of Occupational Therapy in Leprosy	Undergraduates in occupational therapy	1 wk.	By arrangement	1,000	35	
3) Nursing	Undergraduates in PT and OT	—	By arrangement	50/day		
4) Internship for Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists						
IV. IN-SERVICE TRAINING						
1) In-service Training in Med., Surgery, Surgical Rehabil., Pathology, Lab. Technology, Ophthalmology & Epid. and Lepr. Control	For qualified medical personnel/health professionals		By arrangement	250	10	40
3) Medical Record Keepers	+ 2 passed with proficiency in typing and good English	2 mos.	1 time payment for other amenities	100	7	70
3) Refresher Course in Skin Smears	Trained laboratory technicians	2 wks.	By arrangement	2,000	100	
				1,000	70	200

Courses:
Facilities:
Rates:

English fluency essential. Recognized by WHO and Indian Government (all paramedical and technical courses are fully recognized by the Indian Government).

Hostel: 60 men, 16 women and Guest house; single and Double Room

Hostel accommodation: Rs. 250/- per month (for more than 3 months).

(Sharing) Rs. 350/- per month (for less than 3 months)

Rs. 20/- per day with other amenities—short stay < 1 month

Hostel food: Approximately per month = Rs. 1,000/-

Guest House: Single Room = Rs. 100/- per day.

Double Room = Rs. 120/- per day.

A/C Single Room = Rs. 250/- per day.

A/C double Room = Rs. 300/- per day.

Food: Indian: Vegetarian = Rs. 55/- per day and Non-Vegetarian = Rs. 140/- per day. Western = Rs. 220/- or US\$5.

Madras is connected to all the major cities of India by air. From Madras Airport the fare for taxi is approximately Rs. 1000/-. Route → Ranipet → Tiruvalam → Sevoor → Karigiri Hospital. There are also many buses which operate between 05.00 hrs and 22.00 hrs. from Madras to Vellore. From Vellore take any taxi or auto which costs Rs. 150 and Rs. 100, respectively, or else you can take a prepaid taxi or electric train to the City Railway Station (Central station), about 20 kms away from airport. From there take any train to Katpadi Railway Station (13 kms. away from Karigiri). From Katpadi an auto will cost Rs 80/-. If you want to be met at Katpadi or at Madras Airport, please let us know well in advance

How to reach Karigiri: