Editor’s choice – December 2013

We end 2013 with two exciting items of news: firstly, our new electronic submission system is up and running. It will go live on February 10th, 2014. See http://www.editorialmanager.com/leprosyreview/ to find out more and to submit new papers. This will make things more straightforward for authors and reviewers alike and there are online tutorials to help with the change. Secondly, we are well on the way to having the full archives of *Leprosy Review*, from 1930 to the present, freely available online, which will greatly facilitate literature reviews in general, and allow a greater appreciation of the history of leprosy. This follows the online publication of the complete archives of the International Journal of Leprosy, already available at http://www.leprosy-ila.org/leprosyjournal/gn1/default.php.

The current issue of *Leprosy Review* explores several topics that are being widely discussed in the field of leprosy. Transmission of the disease, and how to reduce it, are topics on which we have some general information, but many important details still elude us, largely because the bacillus cannot be cultivated in the laboratory. More sophisticated geographical analysis of cases is one approach to examining the transmission of leprosy, and the paper by Sampaio *et al.* from Vitoria in Brazil looks at the relationship between leprosy and urban poverty.

Another topic of great importance is the continuing care of those previously treated for leprosy, with the emphasis on self-care. Two papers in this issue consider how this might be done more effectively in practice. A paper by de Bruin *et al.* looks at attitudes to combining care for people affected by leprosy with those with diabetes, while a paper from Mozambique looks at the experience of self-care group members themselves. Both papers bring valuable insights regarding the promotion of self-care.

Another paper in our series of country profiles describes the leprosy situation in Brazil. Of particular note is the figure that 86% of new cases had their disability grade assessed, a statistic which is not often reported; more accurate assessment and reporting of disability is the first step on the road to reducing overall disability caused by leprosy.

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Editor