Teaching Materials and Services

Teaching materials and services

Call for proposals for Health System Research Projects

Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR), established in 1967, provides support for scientific research already in an early stage of existence. Since 1992, NLR has earmarked an annual budget of . . . €680,000 for scientific research, which presently represents 7.7% of the total budget for all projects.

The Board of NLR is advised by a Committee for Scientific Research, comprising a number of experts, each of whom monitor a particular area in the field of research.

In collaboration with researchers from supported research institutes in the Netherlands, as well as researchers and programme managers from endemic countries, priority research topics have been identified, based on recognized needs from the field. The following themes were prioritized:

- Reactions and recent nerve damage
- Prevention of disabilities
- Early diagnosis of disease and chemotherapy
- Incidence and transmission

The NLR Committee for Scientific Research invites you to submit proposals for Health System Research on one of the above-mentioned topics.

The Committee will only consider proposals written in accordance with the NLR application form. You can apply for this application form and a copy of the NLR Scientific Research Policy paper to:
Secretary Committee Scientific Research, J. W. Dogger, PO Box 95005, 1090 HA Amsterdam, The Netherlands, or e-mail to j.dogger@leprastichting.nl or c.vroonland@leprastichting.nl.

Manson’s Tropical Diseases

TALC has recently announced the publication of the latest edition of Manson’s Tropical Diseases. In its 21st edition, Manson’s Tropical Diseases retains its strong, practical, clinical emphasis with clear advice on the diagnosis and management of both infectious and non-infectious tropical diseases. From high-altitude medicine to heat stress, infections to insect bites, it covers every condition encountered when working in the tropics or treating patients from these areas.

Features

- Every aspect of tropical medicine is covered in detail—not just infections.
- Both a system-based and a disease approach are taken, with extensive cross-referencing to minimize duplication.
- Content includes a strong clinical focus, supported by clinical management diagrams.
- Written and edited by THE experts in the field, many of whom are based full-time in the tropics.
What’s new?

- All chapters have been completely revised and updated with NEW chapters on Ethics, Transfusions, and Genetics, and an expanded chapter on HIV infection and treatment in the tropics.
- New Clinical Management diagrams focus on the pertinent aspects of each treatment.
- Content has been expanded on the discussion of re-emerging diseases.
- Newly discovered viral agents and all new therapeutic agents are reviewed.
- New appendices have been added on Tropical Drug Therapies, Key aspects of Tropical Nursing, and Sources of Information on Tropical Medicine.

Manson’s Tropical Diseases, by Gordon Cook and Alimuddin Zumla, is published by Saunders (ISBN 0702026409) in hardback, with 1864 pages and 1000 illustrations. It will be available soon from TALC at a special low price. For further details, please contact: TALC, PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TX, UK. Tel: +44-1727-853809; Fax: +44-1727-846852; e-mail: talc@talcuk.org.

Wellcome Trust Advanced Courses for 2003

The Wellcome Trust runs a programme of advanced, residential, laboratory-based courses, the Wellcome Trust Advanced Courses (formerly known as the Wellcome Trust Summer Schools). The Advanced Courses are held at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge. All laboratory courses are held in designated laboratories in the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

The primary aim of the courses is to facilitate research by providing scientists with ‘hands-on’ training in advanced, state-of-the-art, research techniques, directly applicable to their current research interests. Training is in sufficient depth to allow the participants to transfer the technology to their own laboratories. The chief characteristics of the courses are as follows:

- Each course is run by an enthusiastic team of expert instructors, backed up by a highly competent professional team;
- Courses offer the most up-to-date research techniques available in the field;
- All students receive intensive and personal instruction: course places are therefore limited;
- Seminars are given by invited experts to supplement course material. The speakers spend time in the laboratory interacting more informally with the students. The talks are open and a substantial outside audience attends;
- The courses are, without exception, residential and adequate opportunity exists for informal contact and to develop an esprit de corps which has been a notable feature of the courses;
- The courses are subsidized by the Wellcome Trust and no tuition fee is charged to scientists from academic research institutions anywhere in the world. However all courses are residential at the Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxton, Cambridge, UK and there is a charge towards accommodation costs.

The programme for 2003 includes the following courses:

36th Advanced Course
4–14 March 2003
DNA Microarrays: Production to Analysis (applications now invited)

37th Advanced Course
18–27 June 2003
Functional Genomics

38th Advanced Course
23–29 July 2003
Human Genome Analysis: Genetic Analysis of Multifactorial Diseases

Further information on the above courses will be published on the Wellcome Foundation website (http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/biosersss.html) as soon as it becomes available. Details of how to
apply for each course will appear with the course programme, usually about 6 months in advance of the
course. Invitations to apply will also appear in Nature at the appropriate time.

Global Project on the History of Leprosy

The Global Project on the History of Leprosy is seeking information regarding leprosy in Brazil,
specifically on leprosaria. Sixty leprosaria have so far been identified, but detailed information is
lacking. The Project would also like to locate the archives of the leprosaria, and ask that anyone who can
help should contact them at leprosy.history@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk.

The Project is also looking for information on the following:

- History of preventories, the places to which the children of leprous parents were sent. Any
  information on these would be most welcome.
- Institutes, laboratories etc. where research has been carried out on leprosy, and their archives.
- Personal collections of letters, papers, photographs and other such items.

Anyone with information regarding the above points, or who is able to help to locate archives,
leprosaria, etc. in any part of the world not yet included in the Project’s database, should contact: Jo
Robertson (Research Officer) or Debbie Emmitt (Administrative Assistant), Oxford University, ILA
Global Project on the History of Leprosy, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, 45–47 Banbury
Road, Oxford, OX2 6PE, United Kingdom. Tel: +44-1865-284627/8; Fax: +44-1865-274605; e-mail:
leprosy.history@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk.

CD-ROM project

TALC has initiated a pioneering project to provide free information to health workers in the developing
countries on CD-ROM. Although availability of computers is still limited in the developing countries it
is growing fast, while access to the Internet is still very poor, due to cost and poor telephone systems.
CD-ROMs can store large quantities of high quality information. They can be produced and distributed
at low cost.

This service is designed to achieve the following:

- Production of CD-ROMs with search engines, containing copyright free information. The CD-
  ROMs are easy to use and have the potential to be interactive (e.g. for training purposes).
- The CD-ROMs will provide free access to up-to-date and appropriate health and development
  information and training materials for health workers.
- A low cost method for health workers, libraries, government and non-governmental organizations to
  distribute health information and training resources.
- A vehicle for the exchange of ideas.
- The CD-ROMs will allow users to select, adapt and tailor materials to meet local needs and develop
  their own Library of materials at very low cost. Information on the CD-ROM can be downloaded,
e-mailed or printed and freely reproduced and shared.

The project has already met with a great deal of interest, and TALC is developing partnerships with a
number of major organizations that wish to use the service. The project is supported by the UK
Government’s Department for International Development.

If you would like more information or would like to receive a copy of the CD-ROM or are interested
in putting material on it, please contact Pip Elphick at e-talc: Unit 13, Oxford Enterprise Centre,
Standingford House, Cave Street, Oxford, OX4 1BA, UK. Tel: +44-1865-791624; Fax: +44-1865-
202530; e-mail: info@e-talc.org; website: www.e-talc.org.
Malaria CD wins international award

Hot on the tail of sequencing the genome of *Plasmodium falciparum*, the parasite that causes the most deadly form of malaria, the Wellcome Trust has scooped another success in the battle against the disease by achieving an international award for its educational CD-ROM on malaria. One of 12 CDs in the Trust’s Topics in International Health series, the malaria CD-ROM has been awarded the Prix IAMS for 2002. Named after the International Association for Media in Science, the annual prize is awarded to the most innovative and informative multimedia product in the area of scientific, technical and medical multimedia publishing.

Commenting on the award, Jane Hogg, Head of the Trust’s Publishing Group, said: ‘I am delighted with the award, which recognizes the tremendous efforts of our multimedia designers and writers, and the malaria experts who collaborated with them.

‘Malaria kills one child every 20 seconds so it is crucial that scientists continue their work to combat this disease. We must also aid this fight by providing healthcare and medical professionals with accurate and up to date information on the disease—this is central to reducing the burden of suffering. We hope our CD has helped people at the frontline of patient care by equipping them with essential facts on how to understand, identify, treat, control and ultimately prevent malaria.’

Developed with the help of experts in the field of malaria research, the CD-ROM has a collection of 850 images and 13 interactive tutorials, including parasite biology, immunity, and diagnosis in children, which provide an invaluable insight into the disease and its treatment.

To date, the malaria CD-ROM has been used by more than 10,000 people in 70 countries around the world, with the majority of users working in developing countries, where malaria is endemic.


This A5 booklet is available from The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, 234 Blythe Road, London W14 0HJ, UK. (e-mail: ilep@ilep.org.uk; fax: +44-20-73711621). The Introduction reads as follows:

The ILEP Catalogue of Training Courses brings together information on international courses and in-service training available to health workers. Training courses on leprosy, tuberculosis, dermatology, health management and community based rehabilitation are included. This reflects the diversity of the work supported by ILEP members.

We would like the information provided to be as comprehensive as possible and for this we rely on information and feedback from ILPE Members, training centres, course organizers and participants. We thank all those who have contributed to this latest edition.

If you would like information on your training centre and the courses you run to be included in this catalogue, please use the form at the end of the present catalogue. We also welcome any suggestions on how this catalogue can be made more useful.

Where appropriate, there is a translation into French. The countries covered include Ethiopia, Mali, South Africa, Uganda, India, Nepal, Spain, Brazil, Mexico and USA.

New edition of leprosy book

Novartis has recently produced the 7th edition of Shanti Yawalkar’s excellent book on leprosy, highly illustrated, up to date, includes some pictures of deformity, free of charge. Contact Penny Grewal, Head, Section Health Care, Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development, PO Box WRO-1002.11.66, 4002 Basle, Switzerland. Fax +41-61-6977104.
Heiser Program for Research in Leprosy and Tuberculosis—Post-doctoral Research Fellowships

**Aims:** To support young biomedical scientists at the beginning of their post-doctoral training for research in leprosy and/or tuberculosis.

**Description:** The current world of leprosy situation has vastly improved since Dr Heiser’s time. The World Health Organisation has estimated that the total number of estimated and registered cases now stands at 1.3 million and 94,000, compared to 10–12 million and 5.4 million, respectively, in 1983, and the WHO has set a goal of reducing the leprosy burden to one patient per 10,000 population over the next few years. The Heiser Programme for Research in Leprosy and Tuberculosis has made major commitment of funds for the completion of the ongoing project for determining the DNA sequence of the entire genome of *Mycobacterium leprae*. The Programme will now commit funds in the form of research grants to accelerate WHO efforts to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem throughout the world.

**Type:** Fellowship

**Duration:** >3 years

**Funding:** The funding level is between $30,000 (£20,500) and $35,000 per annum depending on location. Economy airfare to training location for fellow and their family and $2,000 paid to the training laboratory.

**Amount:** £10K–£50K

**Closing date:** February, 2003

**Comments:** Applicants should submit, in English, one original and four copies of the following: Face sheet—form provided, Supplements (provided), Research Proposal (the presentation should be a detailed description of the proposed research, not to exceed five single-spaced, typewritten pages. Literature may be cited separately, and figures and tables may also be added. Specific plans for the application of knowledge and experience gained through fellowship training and expected future in the field of research in leprosy and/or tuberculosis. A CV is also required. Applicants must also contain; a letter from proposed supervisor, indicating acceptance in the Lab if fellowship is awarded and degree of contribution in selecting and/or writing the proposal; list of sponsor publication during the last five years and letters from three former teachers or supervisors as listed on the face sheet.

**Restrictions:** Applicants should have an MD, PhD or equivalent degree. Although there are no age limits, candidates should be at an early stage of post-doctoral research training (with not more than 2 years’ prior experience at the time of application). There are no citizenship requirements.

For further information, please contact the Director, The Heiser Program, 450 East 63rd Street, New York, NY 10021, USA. Tel: +1-212-7516233; Fax: +1-212-6886794.

**Mycobacterial genomics**

Readers may be interested to know about a new book (edited by Antoine Danchin) containing several chapters on Mycobacterial Genomics:

- Functional genomics for the discovery of new *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* virulence factors (Olivier Neyrolles and Brigitte Gicquel)
- Impact of the *Mycobacterium leprae* genome sequence on leprosy research (Varalakshmi D. Vissa and Patrick J. Brennan)
• TubercuList: a regularly updated database dedicated to the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* Genome (Jean-Christophe Camus, Ivan Moszer, Louis M. Jones, Melinda J. Pryor, and Stewart T. Cole)

The book is entitled ‘Genomics of GC-Rich Gram-Positive Bacteria’ and further information can be found at http://www.horizonpress.com/fggpl.