This issue carries several interesting articles on the management of leprosy.

There is more news about moxifloxacin. Pardillo et al. studied two patients given a single dose, followed 7 days later by a 48 day course, and found it rapidly bactericidal, with a profile like that of rifampicin. They recommend a trial of short-course therapy of rifampicin plus moxifloxacin. By contrast, Zhichun Jing et al. take us back to the era of dapsone monotherapy in China, where they treated a large cohort of these patients, all classified as MB leprosy, with a modified WHO-MDT regimen and compared the outcome with a small untreated cohort. The untreated group were 25 times more likely to relapse than the treated group; all the patients tolerated and responded to MDT.

Narasima Rao et al. provide yet more evidence that shortening the duration of MDT for MB patients can be bad news. They found by careful clinical and histological observation that 6-months U-MDT is significantly inferior to 12 months standard WHO-MDT, and point out that the mere availability of U-MDT does not justify its introduction, especially into basic health services.

Ebenso et al. found that self-care in the management of plantar ulcers is as effective in the Okegbala community in Nigeria as it is elsewhere in the world, greatly reducing the rate of relapse of ulcers and the number of hospital admissions.

There are two intriguing case histories, one of a patient with MB leprosy who relapsed twice after WHO-MDT (Hulmani et al.) and one of a patient who might have acquired leprosy through the cut of a glass bangle (Ghorpade et al.).

Finally there is a moving tribute by Francoise Portaels to Professor S.R. Pattyn, who started life as a pathologist and virologist, and became interested in Mycobacteria and experimental chemotherapy. He was an early champion of combined therapy for leprosy and served on many WHO committees.

We have also learned of the death of Dr. Denis Ridley, and an obituary to him will appear in the next issue of the journal.

Diana N. J. Lockwood
Editor