

Teaching Materials and Services

Training in evaluation in the French language

The Evaluation and Monitoring Service (EMS) of The Leprosy Mission International is conducting a 2-week course in Evaluation skills from 17 to 29 October 2004 in Kinshasa, DR Congo. The aim of the course is to enable those participants who visit projects with which they are unfamiliar to observe systematically what is happening; to ask relevant questions to the appropriate people; to interpret their findings and finally to communicate their conclusions and recommendations on paper. There are places for 12–16 applicants from any of the ILEP partner organizations. Applicants with a variety of professional backgrounds may apply: physicians, social workers, therapists, etc. but they must have a public health perspective or background to their work, and at least 5 years postgraduate experience. Applicants will also be chosen to represent different cultures, religions and from both genders. The course fees (for training, food and accommodation, transport from and to the airport), US \$1450, should be paid by the participant's sending organization direct to TLMI bank account. Application forms and more detailed information can be requested from:

Dr Martin Ndombe, TLM DR Congo, 124, Avenue de la Mongala, Commune de la Gombe, BP 14347 Kinshasa 1, République Démocratique du Congo [Tel: (office) +243-12-21946, (mobile) +243-81-8107710; e-mail: tlm-congo@ic.cd]

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New publications from TALC

The following new publications are now available from TALC.

Assessing Community Health Programmes—A Trainer's Guide

J Valadez, W Weiss, C Leburg, R Davis, 2003

Deals with Lot Quality Assurance Sampling (LQAS), which supports local health workers in the planning and monitoring of their community health programmes. LQAS helps health workers to steer and guide programmes at a local level which centralized management systems are frequently unable to do. Order code B/TG. £9.50 *A Participant's Manual and Workbook* is also available. Order code B/PMW. £6.50.

Common Skin Diseases (17th Edition)

R Marks, 2003

Recognition and treatment of skin diseases is an important element in the practice of medicine. Skin disorders are common and often extremely disabling, and all physicians will inevitably come into contact with patients suffering from itches, rashes and skin ulcers, as well as skin manifestations of systemic disease, during their training and in clinical practice. Order code B/CSD. £8.95.

Information provider

The following article is taken from the LEPRA website.

In 1928 *Leprosy Notes*, the first publication to provide information on leprosy was published by LEPRA. This became *Leprosy Review* in 1930, and has continued to provide vital help and advice to those working in the field, who are often unable to access on-line information. Information is also shared with other countries, and Ministries of Health and non-governmental agencies from across Africa met, at LEPRA's instigation, in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), which was a seminar on leprosy control work for African countries in 1986. The meeting was called to standardize the quality of leprosy control work in central and southern Africa through assistance with staff training, advising on leprosy control and sharing recent developments in research and treatment. LEPRA also provides high-quality, informative support for those who have, or might have, the disease. School, house-to-house, and contact surveys are undertaken in all LEPRA-supported projects, and anyone found to have leprosy is immediately put on treatment and given information about accessing health and social services.

Clinical Aspects of Nerve Damage in Leprosy

Clinical Aspects of Nerve Damage in Leprosy, a thesis by W. J. Theuvenet, is now available (ISBN 90-9016224-0). Subjects covered include neuritis of the lateral femoral cutaneous nerve in leprosy, change in sensation in leprosy after nerve decompression by selective meshing of the epineurium, cytological needle aspiration of the nerve for the diagnosis of pure neural leprosy, the paper grip test for screening on intrinsic muscle paralysis in the foot of leprosy patients, risk factors for type-1 reactions in borderline leprosy patients, contributions of type-1 reactions to sensory and motor function loss in borderline leprosy patients and the efficacy of treatment with prednisolone, and psychiatric morbidity in people affected by leprosy. Further details may be obtained from: Dr Wim J. Theuvenet, Plastic, Reconstructive and Hand Surgeon, 7315 BK Apeldoorn, The Netherlands (e-mail: wjtheuvenet@wxs.nl).

FAME: an initiative to promote medical research publishing in Africa

The following article was taken from *TDR News*, September 2003.

TDR supports major health research projects in Africa and other regions through a variety of grants. The results of this research are published in well known biomedical journals rather than in national medical journals; repeated bibliometric analyses to assess the impact of TDR grants in published literature have shown that the vast majority of grant recipients publish in mainstream biomedical journals with a high impact factor. Since the same bibliometric analyses show that most of these research results are cited by scientists outside Africa, the impact of this research on local researchers, health professionals and policy-makers, all of whom have little access to major international health journals, is questionable.

To give greater visibility to African medical research therefore, TDR/Research Capability Strengthening (RCS) has launched an initiative to strengthen local publication of health research conducted in or relevant to Africa. A postal survey, in July 2002, of 69 African medical and health journals found that the majority were under-funded, did not publish regularly, lacked high quality articles and standard peer review, and were mostly invisible to the rest of the international medical community.

In October 2002, 15 African medical journal editors, four mainstream medical journal editors, and representatives of international editors' associations and other interested partners, were brought together in a consultative meeting and workshop in Geneva. Setting up the Forum of African Medical Editors (FAME), a professional association and network, was the first step taken by the African editors in reviewing the problems faced by their journals and trying to find common solutions. The FAME

secretariat is located at Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya, and a list-serv for FAME members and interested partners is now operational at fame@who.int.

The FAME steering committee met for the first time in Mombasa, Kenya, 22–24 April 2003. The meeting was attended by members from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, and Switzerland (WHO/TDR/RCS). The work planning meeting, which was facilitated by a professional public health facilitator, was participatory, enabling all members to contribute their ideas to the establishment of FAME. The report of the meeting includes proposals, a workplan, and the draft constitution. The FAME general founding meeting was held in Addis Ababa in September 2003.

It is expected that capacity building within existing African medical journals, and collaborative projects with interested parties, will lead to greater journal sustainability and publishing regularity, improved quality of peer review and contents, and higher regional and international visibility of African medical research through indexing in major bibliographic databases.

Un nouvel atlas de la lèpre – the French version of ‘A new atlas of leprosy’

A new atlas of leprosy, by Drs A.C. McDougall and Yo Yuasa, has been demonstrated to be a very useful material for teaching and self-learning of leprosy among health workers in the field. Now the Atlas has been translated into French by Dr Pierre Bobin, and sponsored jointly for publication by the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation and the Association Française Raoul Follereau.

Copies of the French version Atlas can be ordered, free of charge, from the Association Française Raoul Follereau by post (Madame Bénédicte de Charette, Association Française Raoul Follereau, 31 rue de Dantzig, 75722 Paris Cedex 15, France) or by e-mail from direction-aide@raoul-follereau.org.