Teaching Materials and Services

TALC introduces CD-ROMs

The following information was taken from TALC’s website (www.talcuk.org/e-talc.htm).

To support its continuing work in providing low cost health information 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.

TALC would also like to hear from organizations from developing countries that have appropriate material that would benefit from wider circulation via the e-TALC CD-ROM.

For further information, or to receive a copy of the CD-ROM, please contact TALC at the following address: e-TALC, c/o PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TX, UK. e-mail: e-talc@talcuk.org; website: www.e-talc.org.

Wellesley Bailey Awards 2005

The Leprosy Mission International (TLMl) invites nominations for the Fourth Wellesley Bailey Awards.

The Awards will be presented in the first week of June 2005 at a unique awards ceremony in Dublin.

The Awards are presented to people who have had leprosy and who have made an outstanding contribution to society—this can either be nationally in their community, or internationally. The person nominated must have shown courage and achievement in overcoming the challenges faced through leprosy.

Two separate awards will be given: one male and one female. Unsuccessful nominations from previous years can also be submitted for reconsideration. Please note the person nominated must not be told and self-nominations will not be accepted.
Steroid prophylaxis for prevention of nerve function impairment in leprosy: randomized placebo controlled trial (TRIPOD 1)

The above paper by W. Cairns S. Smith et al. appeared in the BMJ, June 19th, 2004; a summary is given below.

The study aimed to determine whether addition of low dose prednisolone to multidrug treatment could prevent reaction and nerve function impairment in leprosy. It was a multicentre, double blind, randomized, placebo controlled, parallel group trial, carried out in six centres in Bangladesh and Nepal, and including 636 patients with newly diagnosed multibacillary leprosy. Prednisolone 20 mg/day was administered for 3 months, with tapering dose in month 4, plus multidrug treatment, compared with multidrug treatment alone. Patients were observed for signs of reaction, impairment of sensory and motor nerve function, and nerve tenderness needing full dose prednisolone at 4 months and 1 year. Prednisolone had a significant effect in the prevention of reaction and nerve function impairment at 4 months (relative risk 3-9, 95% confidence interval 2.1–7.3), but this was not maintained at 1 year (relative risk 1.3, 0.9–1.8). Fewer events occurred in the prednisolone group at all time points up to 12 months, but the difference at 12 months was small. Subgroup analysis showed a difference in response between people with and without impairment of nerve function at diagnosis. It was concluded that the use of low dose prophylactic prednisolone during the first 4 months of multidrug treatment for leprosy reduces the incidence of new reactions and nerve function impairment in the short term, but the effect is not sustained at 1 year. The presence of nerve function impairment at diagnosis may influence the response to low dose prednisolone.

The same issue of the BMJ also carries an Editorial by Diana N. J. Lockwood on treatment of leprosy.

Books from Infolep

The following new publications are listed on Infolep’s website (http://infolep.antenna.nl/).

Gender, Leprosy and Leprosy Control: a Case Study in Plateau State, Nigeria, by Ogho Alubo, Philip Patrobas, Corlien M. Varkevisser and Peter Lever.
Published by: Royal Tropical Institute. Co-production with the Netherlands Leprosy Relief, 2003
Part 3 of 4 case studies exploring the question why in Asian countries more men than women report for leprosy treatment, whereas in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Latin America the male/female ratio is equal. Biological, socio-cultural, economic and health service factors appear to play a role.

ILEP Learning Guide 3: How to Do a Skin Smear Examination for Leprosy, by Dr Guido Groenen, Dr Paul Saunderson, and Professor Baohong Ji on behalf of the ILEP Medico-Social Commission.
Published by: ILEP, 2003.

Published by: ILEP, 2003.
The integration of leprosy control programmes into the general health system is now recognized as the most important strategy by which to sustain health services for people affected by leprosy. This guide draws on the experience of countries that have already gone through the integration process to help those embarking on or already engaged in the same process.
**ILEP Technical Guide: Training in Leprosy**
Published by: ILEP, 2003

Training in leprosy is increasingly likely to occur in an integrated context, and may be part of a larger framework for training general health workers. This guide aims to help in developing a framework for training health personnel to provide quality care for people affected by leprosy within the general health services.


This guide has been compiled for people who have responsibility for wound care amongst people affected by leprosy. It gives readers an opportunity to learn about the normal body response to tissue damage and seeks to encourage readers to use simple methods of treatment to assist the body as it tries to repair itself.